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POLL RESULTS

Compared to last year's, how much do you intend to spend this Christmas season?

More	16
Less	91
About the same	17
Not applicable	8

Sunday, December 05, 2010

INSIDE



New Branch

Marianas Medical Center Garapan branch officially opens its doors to the public today.

Business...Page 14

North Lashes Back

North Korea lambasted South Korea's new defense chief Sunday for threatening to launch air strikes against the North.

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Kilili says Fitial yet to avail of \$200K available for Garapan public market. PAGE 2
Former judge Lizama appointed to NMC board. PAGE 3

Fitial, Inos rift since July

» **Governor to renew Ambrosio Ogumoro's contract as rangemaster**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fitial taps Aniceto Ogumoro as acting DPS commissioner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has designated former police director Aniceto T. Ogumoro as acting commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Aniceto Ogumoro is currently assigned with the DPS Boating Safety Unit. He is the brother of the controversial Ambrosio Ogumoro, who was terminated twice as DPS deputy commissioner this year by DPS commissioner Santiago F. Tudela.

On Nov. 18, 2010, Tudela terminated Ambrosio Ogumoro as deputy commissioner over his alleged retali-

See FITAL on Page 4

After decades of friendship, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos have not been talking to each other and have not been seen publicly together since July over the first reinstatement of Ambrosio Ogumoro as Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner that led to the resignation of the lieutenant governor's daughter, as well as on differing views on awarding government contracts, Capital Hill sources said.

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Fitial

Inos

FREE HEALTH SCREENING

Volunteer nurse Mila Tan, left, of the Commonwealth Health Center, checks the blood sugar of foreign worker Fe Matutino, right, while other volunteer nurses from CHC including Susan De Veyra, second from right, look on at a free health screening that the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office offered yesterday morning on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. A total of 399 foreign workers availed of the free health screening—329 for the blood pressure and blood sugar check, and 70 for vision check.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



DPL gives temporary OK to investor for new \$30M, 300-room condotel

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands issued a temporary authorization allowing the in-

vestor for a new \$30 million, 300-room condotel or condo-hotel to clear a 5-hectare property in San Antonio while DPL works on a final land lease agreement.

Public Lands secretary Oscar M.

Babauta identified yesterday the CNMI-licensed investor as Kevin International Corp., whose principal owners are engaged in multi-billion architectural and engineering projects in Hong Kong.

"I executed two weeks ago a temporary authorization to the investor while they're waiting for the lease being processed by DPL," Babauta told *Saipan*

See DPL on Page 4

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Kilili says Fitial yet to avail of \$200K available for Garapan public market

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration has yet to submit required paperwork to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to avail of the \$200,000 in appropriation that Sablan requested for the development of a Garapan public market.

"It is disappointing that given the dire economic situation in the Northern Mariana Islands, your government seems reluctant

to take advantage of this outside funding assistance," Sablan said in a Dec. 2 letter to Fitial.

The U.S. HUD, the agency in charge of distributing the \$200,000 congressionally directed appropriation, is urging recipients to submit the required paperwork by Dec. 31, 2010.

"And I have been advised that the (CNMI) Department of Lands and Natural Resources has not yet done so," Sablan added.

This is the same project which, a year ago—on Dec. 10, 2009—was described by then presidential candidate Sen. John McCain as "awful." The \$200,000 earmark was for the design and construction of the Garapan public market project.

Sablan, in his two-page letter on Thursday, said the governor has an opportunity to begin the investment in expanding the Garapan public market in a way that would have important benefits to all.

"Please, use the \$200,000 I have placed at your disposal. Submit your paperwork for development of the Garapan public market to the Department of Housing and Urban Development by the end of the year," Sablan told Fitial.

The delegate said establishing more permanent facilities for a public market in Garapan has long been considered an important part of the CNMI economic development strategy.

"The market is good for tourism. It offers another attraction in Garapan, where tourists have the opportunity to meet the local farmers, fishermen, and craftspeople and buy gifts to take home. We often talk of the importance of destination enhancement to bring more tourists to our islands and by boosting demand encourage airlines to increase flights. The Garapan public market is precisely the kind of facility that has this positive effect on tourism," Sablan added.

The administration could not be reached for comment.

Sablan said the market is also good for farmers, fishermen, and craftspeople, and the public at large.

"Development of the Garapan public market would provide the community of Saipan a centralized location where their fresh produce and seafood needs could be conveniently obtained directly from the producers on a regular basis," he added.

Hofschneider is new SHEFA administrator

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Northern Marianas College chief financial and administrative officer Henry Hofschneider has been appointed the new administrator of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* last Friday citing Hofschneider is expected to report for work in a week's time.

He will be SHEFA's first administrator since the program's inception in 2004.

The mayor explained that Hofschneider was hired under the mayor's office and will be paid under its personnel cost. Flores refused to disclose the salary offered to the new administrator.

"It's very true that Mr. Hofschneider will be the SHEFA administrator. He's just taking his vacation for now and he's expected to begin probably in another week—or within the month," Flores confirmed.

He added that the administrator will be considered a regular staff of the mayor's office and until funding for his salary is not provided under SHEFA's allocation, the mayor's office will shoulder his salary.

Since the establishment of SHEFA six years ago, William Torres has served as consultant as well as program administrator. Last month, the new SHEFA

board didn't renew his contract with the intention of hiring a permanent administrator who will be officially stationed at the SHEFA office. SHEFA paid Torres \$40,000 annually.

Flores said the new administrator is expected to come up with ideas on how the program could better serve scholars and options to consider for the program's continuity.

"Now that the number of poker machines is declining, we will ask the administrator to establish a partnership with the business community to come up with a matching fund for the scholarship programs," said the mayor.

He described the partnership as "win-win" for both students and the private sector.

The Legislature provides \$3 million allocation annually for SHEFA. This is source from the poker licenses and revenues collected by the government.

The number of poker machines in the Commonwealth has declined dramatically in the last six years, from over 1,400 in 2004 to only 576 active machines at present—a loss of 59 percent. This fiscal year, the government projects to collect \$6.912 million from these existing machines, mainly from license fees and other costs.

There were some 1,414 poker machines in the CNMI in late 2005, contributing some \$16.4 million to government coffers.

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Former judge Lizama appointed to NMC board

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed former judge Juan T. Lizama to replace Charles Cepeda on the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

If confirmed by the Senate, Lizama will represent Saipan on the board effective immediately through Nov. 13, 2013. Cepeda left his NMC post early this year.

"The lieutenant governor and I are confident that you are highly qualified and will be tremendous asset to this important board of regents," Fitial's nomination stated, requiring Lizama to file a statement of financial interests with the public auditor and other prerequisites by the Senate.

The appointment of Lizama leaves only one vacancy on the board. It can be recalled that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial allowed the term of former chair Janet King expire last September.

Other members of the board of regents included Maria Paz Younis, Frank Rabauliman, Andrew Orsini, Malua Peter, and Elaine Orilla.

Lizama completed his bachelor's degree in University of Oregon, master's degree in

University of Seattle, and doctorate in Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College.

He served as the associate judge of the CNMI Superior Court in 1998 through 2008 and has been a special judge at the Superior and Supreme Courts in 1996 through 1998.

Lizama started as a lawyer in 1986 through 1998.

Saipan Tribune learned that he also served as assistant legal counsel of Marianas Public Land Corp.; consultant for the NMI First Commonwealth Legislature; director of Territorial Economic Opportunity Office; and administrator of the Office of Aging of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Yesterday, Lizama said he was "happy, pleased, and appreciative" of the appointment of the governor.

Lizama admitted that prior to this appointment, he considered applying for the position of NMC president in his desire to serve and help the only community college on island.

Lizama admitted that serving the board of regents is his next option.

"This is something I am looking forward because I feel that I have the capability to work and I have sense of direction for NMC," he told

Saipan Tribune.

Lizama said accreditation, organization and policies, and expansion and development of programs are among the priorities that NMC needs to focus on.

He also wants NMC to become self-sufficient in terms of its program funding and achieve the goal of making the institution a state-of-the-art college in the region.

NMC was placed under show-cause status due to non-compliance with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges standards and requirements. The commission will render its decision on NMC's show-cause status after its January 2011 assembly.



Lizama

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TOYOTA

US Navy offers compromise on Guam firing range

HAGÁTÑA, Guam (Pacific Daily News)—Assistant Secretary of the Navy Jackalynne Pfannenstiel asked the mayors a question: If the military can build a firing range off Route 15, but can keep Págat open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, would the controversy fade?

She didn't get much of an answer.

Pfannenstiel ended a two-day trip to Guam yesterday, and a meeting with the Mayors' Council of Guam was one of many with local leaders. Pfannenstiel, a key player in military buildup decisions, said she had come to Guam on a "listening tour."

"We are committed to doing it in a way where we move forward with Guam as a partner," she told the mayors. "There is no way this is going to work; there is no way we will have a buildup where the Marines come to Guam, unless it's in partnership with the people of Guam."

The meeting didn't go far before the controversial issue of the Route 15 firing range came up. The military's preferred plan is to build the firing range along the road's eastern edge so Marines can train there daily.

This plan has drawn heavy criticism from politicians and protesters alike since that area includes the ancient village site of Págat and Págat Cave.

Military has given assurances that the cultural sites won't be harmed and the public will be able to visit almost every day, but protesters have filed a lawsuit in federal court to stop the range.

Pfannenstiel said yesterday she couldn't talk about the lawsuit, but she did offer a heavy concession on the firing range plans. Pfannenstiel said the military was looking for a way to adjust plans for the firing range so that Págat would never be out of reach.

According to current plans, the public couldn't go to Págat when some of the gun ranges—such as the machine gun range—were in use, because of the tiny chance a stray bullet could be a danger.

But maybe that could change, Pfannenstiel said.

nenstiel said.

"If that access was unimpeded, if there was no constraint at all at getting to the caves and the village, would that make an enormous difference?" she asked. "Would that then remove the opposition for using that area for the training ranges?"

Most of the mayors didn't say specifically if they believed this compromise would allay public concerns about the firing range. Yigo Vice Mayor Ron Flores said he was opposed to the military absorbing any more northern land, Págat or not.

Flores said the Department of Defense had enough land, and if they couldn't build a firing range on land they already had, they should give some back.

"You guys have a lot of property in your inventory. Why does it seem that

you need more? You are taking the land away from the people, and the people need the land. They need their heritage, tradition and culture," Flores said at the meeting. "That's what you are taking away from us."

And Flores isn't the only objector with that mindset.

Victoria Leon Guerrero and Leevin Camacho, both of whom are leaders of protest group We Are Guåhan, have each said previously that they oppose any firing range in the area at all, regardless of whether the military guarantees access to Págat.

Joe Quinata, of the Guam Preservation Trust, said he also believes the military should look at alternative sights, regardless of whether access to Págat can be preserved.

Their protests and lawsuit are not about preserving access once the military takes control of the land, they've said, but that the military should never take the land to begin with.

Even though protesters might oppose the range as a whole, it's unclear if the public will accept a firing range on Route 15 if Págat is not affected, said Bryan Wood, director of the Pacific Division Headquarters Marine Corps.

If this concession can satisfy public concerns, and military can figure out how to adjust the ranges as needed, most of the conflict over the range could be resolved, Wood said.

"We are trying to look at every possible concept to determine if we can arrange the ranges so we can eliminate the danger of any fragment going down there, or make it so infinitesimal that it is practically eliminated," Wood said. "We're trying to find a way to do it."

According to several press releases, Pfannenstiel also held meetings with Sens. Tina Muna-Barnes, Frank Blas Jr. and Judith Guthertz yesterday. Pfannenstiel met with Gov.-elect Eddie Calvo the day before.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross Health & Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety trainings this December:

- Dec. 14: Adult CPR, 6pm - 10pm
- Dec 18: Infant & Child CPR, 8am - 1pm
- Dec. 21: First Aid, 6pm - 10pm

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is \$35 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$40 per person. For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. You may also register online at <http://www.redcross.org>. (PR)

Educational assistance program deadlines for Winter/Spring 2010

Application deadline for new or returning applicants: Dec. 15, 2010 (For those who submitted an application for fall term 2010, they do not have to reapply for Winter/Spring term). Deadline for supporting documents: Feb. 28, 2011. For more information call

664-4750/52 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. (PR)

Austerity Fridays for govt sports facilities

All CNMI-owned sports facility (Ada Gym) and other sports grounds (basketball court and baseball fields) under the DCCA-Division of Sports and Recreation will be closed every austerity Friday.

Sports organizations (private or government leagues), NMASA, and DS&R staff are urged to coordinate with DS&R director Joe A. Lizama or his staff to accommodate any planned events as not to conflict with this directive.

■ The Francisco Palacios baseball field and the Miguel Pangelinan ball field will be closed for field preparation and maintenance beginning Dec 20, 2010.

■ Sports organizations are also urged to submit their (tentative) 2011 calendar of events via email at gymsport@pticom.com or fax at 664-2510

For more information, contact Lizama at 664-2508. (PR)

DPL

From Page 1

Tribune yesterday.

Kevin International will be leasing the same property where a Korean investor, KSA Corp., previously proposed to build a hotel with villas and condotels. The KSA project did not materialize, resulting in DPL's termination of the public land lease in June 2008.

Babauta said he is enthusiastic about Kevin International's investment plan, considering that the investor is "willing to pay a minimum of five years in advance land rental." That amount under an initial 25-year land lease has yet to be disclosed.

FITIAL

From Page 1

ation against some employees and having an expired employment status.

In his memorandum addressed to all department and activity heads last week, Fitial said Tudela will be off-island on personal leave.

Tudela's leave began on Nov. 27, 2010. He is expected to be back at DPS on Jan. 22, 2011.

Fitial said effective Nov. 27 and until

"With this temporary authorization, Kevin International can now start clearing the property until a lease agreement is done. DPL will be able to release the agreement in the next 30 days," he said.

Babauta said Kevin International is represented by Tony Ng, who is the investor group's representative in the CNMI. He said the principal owners who are based in Hong Kong will be coming back to Saipan in the next few days.

The DPL secretary said the investment is a three-phase project, with the first phase involving the construction of the main facility.

"They will be building the main facility worth \$10 million to \$12 million

the return of Tudela, Aniceto Ogumoro is designated as acting DPS commissioner.

"Please extend your full cooperation to Mr. Ogumoro as he assumes these additional duties," the governor said in the memo.

Aniceto Ogumoro was the acting police director when police officers arrested him on Feb. 11, 2006, after they raided his house on Capital Hill where they reportedly recovered three rifles and 25 boxes of ammunition.

Aniceto Ogumoro was charged,

in the first three years, and that's the first phase. The second phase is building other amenities including a business center. The third phase is additional construction. DPL is expected to receive the final business plan in three to four months," said Babauta, a former House speaker.

DPL is tasked with managing leases of public lands on behalf of people of Northern Marianas descent.

After deducting administrative costs from the collected fees, DPL transfers the balance to the Marianas Public Land Trust, which then invests the money. Income earned from those investments is transferred to the general fund for appropriation by the Legislature.

but the Office of the Attorney General later moved to dismiss the case after a Superior Court judge suppressed all the evidence seized at the raid. The judge subsequently dismissed the case.

In 2008, Aniceto Ogumoro filed a lawsuit in federal court against then acting DPS commissioner Juan I. Wabot and several other police officers who allegedly conspired to make drummed up charges against him. Wabot and the officers have denied there was a conspiracy.

RIFT

From Page 1

Fitial reinstated Ogumoro for the second time in November after returning from an official business trip and medical checkup in California.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said yesterday that Fitial indicated that he plans to resume the contract renewal process for Ogumoro's post as rangemaster.

"No decision has been handed down yet regarding the deputy commissioner post," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial, in an interview with KSPN on Friday, said he renewed Ogumoro's contract.

He also said the reason why Inos concurred with DPS commissioner Santiago Tudela's decision to terminate Ogumoro in November was based on a conflict between Ogumoro and Inos' daughter, Kaye.

"I have to understand how he feels about his family, so I would do the same if it was my daughter, I would protect my daughter," Fitial said.

Inos could not be reached for com-

ment on the governor's statement.

Kaye Inos quit her job at DPS in July when the governor reinstated Ogumoro. No reason was cited for her resignation, but sources said it was because she did not like the way Ogumoro ran the department's operations and at one time, they had a disagreement on who among DPS personnel should attend an off-island training.

There have also been grievances filed against Ogumoro as a former range master. Inos earlier said Ogumoro's continued employment at DPS would lower morale and not be beneficial to the police force.

'I don't remember'

The governor, when asked by a KSPN reporter on Friday about the last time he talked to Inos, said, "I don't remember."

Sources said the last time Fitial and Inos talked to each other was in July.

Demapan said "there are lots of speculations going on."

"Despite the present disagreement, the administration assures the public that the governor and lieutenant governor remain undeterred to tackling pressing issues

such as economic recovery and stabilizing the government's finances. These are matters that warrant greater attention," Demapan said.

Despite the apparent "silent treatment" they have been giving each other since then, Fitial and Inos have been separately carrying on their duties.

However, having a governor and lieutenant governor that do not see eye to eye is detrimental to good governance, said the sources, who requested anonymity for fear of political retaliation.

Elected officials on Capital Hill said this is the first time in CNMI history that the governor and lieutenant governor have not spoken for a long time.

During the budget crisis that led to the partial shutdown of the CNMI government, Fitial and Inos were separately meeting with lawmakers. At one time, Inos met with lawmakers until about 1am to try to act as mediator between the House and Senate over passage of a budget bill, only to have the informal agreements thrown out when the House majority spoke to the governor several hours later.

Even during Cabinet meetings, Inos

would not attend if the governor was on-island. When the governor was off-island, Inos—as the acting governor—would preside over Cabinet meetings.

Former representative Tina Sablan, who is a strong advocate of a transparent and efficient government, said Inos "can help mount a movement to recall or impeach the governor."

"He would certainly have a great deal of support for that," she said, when asked for comment.

Ogumoro as rangemaster, again

Demapan said it is his understanding that Ogumoro's renewal paperwork to serve as rangemaster did not make it through the complete process, "thus he was recently relieved from his duties as the legal finding was that he was not a valid employee after his contract expired."

Ogumoro was also serving as deputy commissioner pursuant to the governor delegating that additional responsibility to him, Demapan said.

"Governor Fitial has indicated that he plans to resume the renewal process for Mr. Ogumoro's post as rangemaster," Demapan added.

Tudela terminated Ogumoro twice—first in July and second in November during times when Fitial was off-island. But Fitial also twice reinstated Ogumoro.

Inos earlier said the non-renewal of Ogumoro's contract was for the best interest of everyone concerned.

"It wasn't a disciplinary thing. It was more a situation where the employment relationship had ended and essentially after discussing the matter with the commissioner, having taken into consideration his conduct and how he interacts with other employees, we felt it was for the best interest of the department and the general public if he was relieved from his duties," Inos had said.

Fitial appointed Inos, who was the Finance secretary at the time, to become his lieutenant governor in early 2009 to fill the vacancy left by former lieutenant governor Timothy Villagomez after the latter was convicted in a corruption charges. He is now serving in federal prison over corruption. When Fitial sought reelection in November 2009, he ran with Inos and the tandem won. Fitial and Inos had been friends long before Fitial ran for office.

Six OTC products voluntarily recalled

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six over-the-counter products have been voluntarily recalled in the CNMI after its manufacturers initiated the recall move.

The Department of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health said the six products are Children's Benadryl tablets in cherry and grape flavors, Junior Strength Motrin caplets 24 count, Roloids Extra Strength Softchews, Tylenol Cold Multi-

Symptom liquid products, Mylanta liquid products, and AlternGEL liquid products.

"The recall in the CNMI was prompted after the respective product companies, in conjunction with the Food and Drug Administration, were voluntarily recalling the products indicated above," the DPH said in its statement yesterday, pointing out that the recall move is not due to any health threat by the products.

DPH revealed that McNeil Consumer Healthcare, manufacturer of Children's Benadryl tablets and Junior Strength Motrin caplets, recalled the said

products following a review that showed insufficiencies in the development of the manufacturing process for the products.

According to McNeil-PPC Inc. there is no indication that the recalled products do not meet quality standards and this recall is not being undertaken on the basis of adverse events.

The same company also initiated a voluntarily recall of one product lot of Roloids Extra Strength Softchews cherry flavor, 36 count packages.

"The recall was initiated as a precaution following consumer complaints of an uncharacteristic consistency or texture, traced

to crystallized sugar in the product," the statement indicated.

For the Tylenol Cold Multi-Symptom liquid products, the voluntary recall is to update the labeling for the products. Review of McNeil revealed that information about the presence of alcohol from flavoring agents was noted as an inactive ingredient listed on the package, but on the front panel of the product. Certain flavoring agents contribute small amounts of alcohol.

For the Mylanta liquid products, Johnson & Johnson-Merck Consumer Pharmaceuticals Co. initiated the recall of 12

Mylanta liquid products and one AltaGEL liquid product for the same reason as that of the Tylenol recall.

According to BEH, only five retail stores in the CNMI were identified to have one of the recalled products which is Children's Benadryl and was already removed from shelves.

"It is important that the public

is aware that this is a wholesale and retail level recall. Consumers can continue to use the products and there is no indication that the recalled products do not meet quality standards or have any negative health effects if used," DPH said, adding that BEH has advised retailers to remove all the recalled items from shelves until further notice.

Workshop on tax form W-2CM set

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2010 and other 2010 year end filing requirements.

The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 10, 2010. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center, MPLC conference room.

Businesses, employers, and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Confirm your attendance by calling the administration office of Rev & Tax at 664-1000 or fax at 664-1015. (PR)



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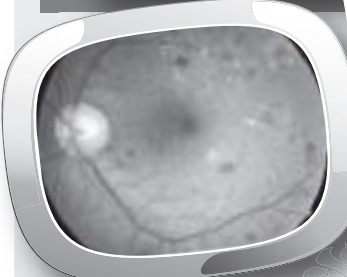
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CUC water customers drop significantly

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water customers has dropped significantly in the past three months due to CUC's new billing system.

CUC counsel Deborah E. Fisher said the number of water customers has dropped from 9,182 on Aug. 18, 2010 to 8,632 as of Nov. 9, 2010 or a 6.37 per-

cent decrease.

In CUC's second status report filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Fisher said the emphasis during the months of September, October, and early November this year has been commercial accounts.

Fisher said landlords of multi-tenant commercial buildings must be located and consulted and often informed that CUC will no longer be billing individual tenants as there are typically

no individual service lines to the multi-tenant buildings.

She said landlord will need to set-up a singular water account for the measurement of volume for the entire building.

"Individual tenants are then removed from the CUC Billing System as a customer," she said.

The CUC counsel said as of Nov. 9, 2010, the total number of customers not being billed by consumption is 3,117, consisting of 1965 metered customers and

1,152 unmetered customers.

This number, Fisher said, represents a decrease of 1,404 (from 4521) of customers not being billed by consumption as compared with the Aug. 18, 2010 status.

Fisher also disclosed that CUC has discontinued servicing the old precision meters that are stored in the CUC warehouse.

CUC's intent of this servicing was to begin use of the precision meters in the non-24 hour

areas in anticipation of a meter shortfall.

Fisher said CUC presently has enough water meters to continue the meter change-out until approximately Dec. 15, 2010.

She said CUC meter change-out crew leaders continue to meet with the chief engineer, and chief financial officer on a weekly basis in order to review and discuss progress.

"CUC believes that progress on increasing the number of customers being metered and billed by consumption during this past month continues to keep CUC on track for complet-

ing all customers by the Jan. 31, 2010 deadline," she said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has expressed concern that CUC will not achieve compliance with the stipulated order requirements for installing meters and billing of all of its customers based on consumption no later than Jan. 31, 2011.

EPA and CUC had entered joint stipulations that were intended to resolve longstanding deficiencies relating to CUC's wastewater systems, drinking water systems, and oil storage, transportation, and disposal program.

APASEEM annual confab set for Dec. 8 and 9

The Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management has attracted 12 groups of researchers for its 2010 Science, Science Education, and Environmental Management meeting set for Dec. 8 and 9 at the American Memorial Park auditorium.

Once again, this year's conference will host speakers traveling here at their own expense from Hawaii and from Guam, as well as presentations by on-island scientists and science students.

The annual Science, Science Education, and Environmental Management meeting will coincide with APASEEM's annual

general membership meeting.

The time for the presentations will be from 3:30pm until 6:30pm, both days. As recommended, this year the academy has moved the talks from the evening to a day period time slot. Six to seven talks are scheduled for each day and each talk is planned for about a 20-minute period with another five minutes for questions.

Interested members from the general public and resource agencies are strongly encouraged to attend and ask questions following each talk.

Note that Wednesday is a CNMI holiday, thus many interested government em-

ployees, as well as the general public and interested school students should be able to attend. The timing, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm, is to further encourage public and private school science teachers to attend both days.

Public resource management agency directors and private firm managers are encouraged to allow interested employees flexibility in work hours in order for them to attend and participate in this, our island's sole science, science education, and environmental management best practices supportive body.

The APASEEM nonprofit organization was begun in April 2004. To date it has held 13 formal meetings with 54 formal and informal talks given by 96 individuals presenting their

projects and findings, mostly involving studies and projects done here in our islands. General membership meetings are held just prior to or shortly following each day's presentation.

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010 afternoon presentations, starting at 3:30pm, are planned to include:

■ Dr. Gary Denton, University of Guam Water and Environment Research Institute, "Mercury and Lead Contamination Case Studies in Saipan Lagoon: Good News, Bad News!"

■ Mr. James Stanford, US Geological Survey Biological Resources Division, "Preliminary Report on Small Non-Volant Mammals Surveys, Pagan Island."

■ Mr. Dave Bucher and Kagman High School Advanced Biology Organization, in co-operation with Dr. Robert L.

Schlub, Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Guam and Dr. Dilip Nandwani, Plant Pathologist/Agronomist, NMC CREES, "Studies on the Decline of the Tree Species *Casuarina equisetifolia* in the Marianas Archipelago."

■ Ms. Judy Amesbury, Micronesian Archaeological Research Services, Inc., Guam, "Pelagic Fishing in the Mariana Archipelago: From the Prehistoric Period to the Present."

■ Ms. Andrea Bruner and Dr. Phil Bruner, Brigham Young University (BYUH), "Who's Your Daddy? Extra-pair Paternity in Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) and Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) at Woolley Lagoon, Nome, Alaska."

■ Mr. Richard Seman, "A Report on Three Year's Work Re: Conducting Summer Camps on Marine Fisheries and Resources

at Marianas High School."

Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010 afternoon presentations, starting at 3:30pm, are planned to include:

■ Mr. Michael Trianni, Mr. Michael Tenorio, CNMI DFW Fisheries Program and Mr. Steven McKagan, NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office, "Evaluation of the Gill Net Fishery in the Saipan Lagoon."

■ Ms. Amanda Hansen, Mr. Daniel Scott, Mr. Mark Cannon, Dr. Roger Goodwill, BYUH. 2010. "Trace metal contamination in the sea anemone, *Edwardsianthus gilbertensis* (Carlgren, 1931)."

■ Mr. Valrick Welch, San Vicente Elementary School, "A Short Report with Graphs of the Science and Math Improvements for San Vicente School as Well as the Specific Improvements from the Students Who Participated in the Summer Camp and the Highly Involved Students from the Young Farmers Club."


■ Mr. James Stanford, USGS, "Focus on the Brown Tree Snake (*Boiga irregularis*) Issue in the NMI (Causes for Concern, Recent Developments, Etc.)."

■ Roger Goodwill, BYUH 2010. "Monsters without Backbones—the Strange Invertebrates Inhabiting the Saipan Reefs."

■ Ms. Lael Prince, Ms. Molika Graham, Mr. Michael Schsenbaugh, Dr. Dave Bybee, and Dr. Roger Goodwill, BYUH, "Reproductive Studies on a Sabellid Polychaete (Sabellidae: Fabriciinae) from the Kahuku Reef Flat, Oahu Hawaii, 2010."

■ Ms. Lauren Fielding, Dr. Oscar Johnson (Montana State University), Dr. Roger Gold, Dr. Roger Goodwill, Ms. Lael Prince, Ms. Patricia Johnson, Mr. Paul Brusseau, and Ms. Nancy Brusseau, BYUH. 2010. "New Insights of the migration patterns of Pacific Golden-Plovers."

APASEEM reserves the option to alter the order and days of speakers as circumstances warrant. We hope to see everyone who's interested at the park auditorium from 3:30pm to 6:30 on Dec. 8 and 9. For more information, contact John Furey via email at jfurey@saipan.com or by phone at 234-5103 (please leave a voice message after 7 rings).



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/S/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF HEALTH DIRECTOR, P&S




MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.


MEETING AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes – October 26, 2010
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Committee Reports**
 1. Finance
 2. Personnel
 - a. Reprogramming of Funds
 3. Ad Hoc Reports
- IV. Old Business**
- V. New Business**
 1. General Membership Meeting
 2. Excellence Awards
 3. Database Software for Research
 4. JINJYACHO group
 5. PATA Annual Conference
- VI. Executive Session**
- VII. Adjournment**

/s/ **Marian Aldan-Pierce**
Acting Chair, MVA Board of Directors



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE
AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of Sandy Beach Homes, LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed construction of a residential complex, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Completion of Garapan waterline project a boon to residents

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents of Garapan and nearby areas can now enjoy improved water service, thanks to the completion of the Central Garapan Waterline Project.

The Central Garapan Waterline Project, officially completed on Nov. 19, was funded by the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Office of Insular Affairs through a Capital Improvement Project grant.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial led the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday of the \$609,000 project awarded in March to Tropex Gardens Company Ltd.

In his remarks, Fitial said the completion of the project is an indication of the CNMI's commitment to use federal funds for infrastructure projects that benefit the community.

The governor acknowledged that the commitment and collaboration of the CIP office, the Water Task Force, and Tropex Gardens helped facilitate the improved waterline system for over 3,200 residents of Central Garapan.

"As part of our pledge to the people of the Commonwealth, my administration will continue to support infrastructure development throughout our villages. We will continue working to secure more federal funds to meet the infrastructure needs of the vari-



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Central Garapan Waterline Project last Dec. 3. The \$609,000 project, which was completed on Nov. 19, was funded by the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Office of Insular Affairs through a Capital Improvement Project grant.

ous communities throughout our Commonwealth," he added.

Water Task Force program manager Pedro Sasamoto said the Central Garapan Waterline Project is among the projects under their office that aim to provide better water service on the island.

"Our goal is to provide 24-hour water service and that's what we're doing. We have a lot of water projects and we're trying to get funding for these projects," said Sasamoto.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Malae said projects such as the

Central Garapan Waterline Project help them meet their objective to improve water service on the island by at least 10 percent every year.

Last Nov. 8, Fitial also led a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the completion of the Rapogao and Sablan Quarry Well Field Isolation and Water System Improvement Project.

The \$2.7 million project connects 12 existing water wells at Rapogao, Sablan Quarry, and Donni Spring to the new 400,000-gallon reservoir to centralize distribution, mixing and chlorination.

CIP coordinator Keith Aughenbaugh of the Office of Insular Affairs said there have been a number of success stories in terms of Water Task Force projects for the commonwealth.

"We look forward to continue to work closely with Water Task Force and CUC to get other projects completed as soon as possible," he said.

Water Task Force legal adviser Kay Delafield said three projects are scheduled to be put out for bidding early next year. These are the Tapochao well connection, the Agag water and power line, and the Papago water line.

Feds want NMHC to fully fund Tinian fire station

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development expects the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to give its full commitment in funding the entire Tinian Fire Station project under the Community Development Block Grant.

Planner and grant writer Jeannie P. Mafnas informed the board during Saturday's meeting that HUD wants NMHC to "commit money" for the actual construction of the facility since it will already subsidize two components of the project.

"If we have committed already to the A&E, which we did, we also must commit for the construction (but) not necessarily 100 percent," she said.

The \$150,000 architectural and engineering design and the procurement of \$100,000 worth of equipment for the Tinian Fire Station are among the five projects approved by the board under the CDBG program.

Other approved projects under CDBG for program year 2010 were the rehabilitation of Sinapalo Children's Park on Rota, \$372,348; rehabilitation of Susupe Sports Complex softball fencing, \$30,000; and rehabilitation of Dandan Children's Park, \$50,000.

Administered by the NMHC, the CDBG program is a flexible program that provides commu-

nities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

The program, which began in 1974, is one of the longest continuously run programs under HUD.

Mafnas said they have been working closely with the Tinian Fire Department which informed them that the amount needed for the construction of the fire station is \$2 million.

But Mafnas pointed out that the agency receives only some \$880,000 in gross amount for its CDBG program. Of this amount,

20 percent is allocated for planning and administrative costs, leaving only about \$704,000 to fund approved projects.

Mafnas said the Tinian Fire Department is only requesting for \$500,000 for the construction of the fire station since they have received "verbal commitment" from the Tinian Delegation as well as the Tinian Municipal Office for \$1.5 million.

Board chair Marcie Tomokane said they can commit \$500,000 for the project under the CDBG program but she expressed con-

cern about verbal commitment for funding received by the Tinian Fire Department.

"If the Tinian delegation failed to secure the difference to complete the building, what's that going to do with the program?" she asked.

Tomokane said that if such is the case, NMHC will have to provide perpetual funding for the Tinian Fire Station project.

Board member Pedro Itibus affirmed Tomokane's concern, adding that perpetual funding for a specific project will result to neglecting other community projects.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-11-008

Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-A, Power Poles & Lines Relocation, Papago, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the relocation of overhead power distribution systems along Cross Island Road in Papago, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting followed by a site visit, is scheduled for November 29, 2010 at 10:00 AM, local time, at the CUC Conference Room in the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All bidder are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the project site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-008, Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-A, Power Poles & Lines Relocation, Papago, Saipan", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than December 09, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CHST) at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on December 3, 2010 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. John Onedera, Power Division Engineer- johno@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE U. MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC-RFP-11-007

DRINKING WATER & WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN, CNMI

ADDENDUM NO. 1

November 17, 2010

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendment to the proposal submittal deadline for CUC-RFP-11-007:

One (1) original and seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-007, Drinking Water & Wastewater Master Plan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, M.P. 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on **January 14, 2011**. Late submission will not be considered.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on **January 7, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Commander Kenneth Esplin via email kenneth_esplin@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Charges vs suspect in kidnapping of minor girl dismissed

The Superior Court has dismissed the case against a 35-year-old man accused of kidnapping and assaulting a 5-year-old girl in Kagman.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday dismissed without prejudice the charges against Steven A. Hocog after the Office of the Attorney General informed the court that the girl will not be prepared to testify at trial on Dec. 13, 2010.

Dismissal without prejudice is when a case is dismissed but the plaintiff is allowed to re-file a new case on the same allegations in the future.

Manglona granted the OAG's motion to dismiss without prejudice the case and vacated the jury trial currently set to begin on Dec. 13, 2010 at 9am.

Accordingly, the judge said, Hocog's motion to exclude identification evidence is mooted by the dismissal of the case.

"All bail terms, including the property bond posted in this action, are hereby exonerated, and the defendant is hereby discharged," Manglona said.

During Friday's motion hearing, assistant attorney general Benjamin K. Petersburg and attorney Tiberius Mocanu appeared for the government. Hocog appeared with counsel, assistant public defender Richard Miller.

On Dec. 1, 2010, Hocog filed his motion to exclude identification evidence. On that same day, the government filed its opposition to the motion to exclude identification.

In addition, the government filed its own motion to dismiss without prejudice.

The factual basis cited for the government's motion is the prosecution's assessment that the minor girl, who is six years old, will not be prepared to testify at trial, despite their efforts to work with the victim and prepare her for trial.

Without the testimony of the minor, the Commonwealth believes it will not be able to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

At the hearing, Hocog did not object to the government's motion to dismiss.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Hocog with kidnapping, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Police said Hocog kidnapped the girl from Rio Laundry in Kagman III on the evening of March 2, 2010. The suspect then allegedly brought her to an abandoned house, where she later managed to escape.

The girl sustained minor scratches on her hands, legs, and chin. Police said bruises were also visible on the child's neck.

A doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center reportedly examined the girl and found no physical signs of sexual contact. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 6, 1999

Official calls for creation of AIDS support group

With the increase in the number of people infected with HIV in the Northern Marianas, a public health official has sought the creation of a support group that will assist in carrying out an island-wide information campaign about the dangers of HIV/AIDS. Although many people are aware of the dreaded disease, Elsie Ramon, manager of Communicable Disease Program, lamented that a great number still practice unprotected sex. "It is very unfortunate that people do not realize that once you get it in your body, you will have it forever. It is a lifetime suffering. Now, we have to shift gear in our approach," she said. The Department of Public Health said there are already 33 residents that are suffering from HIV or full-blown AIDS and estimates that there could be 300 more unreported cases.

HANMI presses for Puerto Rico dump closure

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has urged the CNMI government to move fast in closing Puerto Rico dump as it pressed officials to use the \$16 million appropriated by the Legislature for the construction of the sanitary landfill in Marpi. "For the health of our citizens who live and work near the area, as well as for the image of our tourist industry, it is time to close Puerto Rico dump once and for all," said HANMI president Ron D. Sablan. "Our hotels have been concerned about this for years and by passing this resolution, we hope it will help keep the new sanitary landfill project moving forward as quickly as possible." The hotel association asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the Legislature to set a deadline and make the closure of the island's biggest eyesore a priority because of the health hazard it poses to the population.

Dec. 6, 2000

Hiring of nonresidents for gov't jobs approved

Citing staff shortage that has hampered delivery of critical public services, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday approved the hiring of nonresident workers to occupy key positions in the government that locals couldn't fill in. But at the same time, he called for aggressive recruitment and training program for resident workers for these jobs in a strong message to departments and agencies relying on foreign manpower. Public Law 12-34 extends by another five years the sunset provision of an earlier law that had allowed some government offices to employ guest workers until September 30 of this year.

Teno OKs independent public lands office

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio reluctantly signed a law granting more autonomy to two agencies dealing with public lands in the Northern Marianas, expressing doubt whether such proposal is the best solution to problems hounding administrators of these scarce resources. Public Law 12-33, otherwise known as the "Board of Public Lands Act," severs ties of the Division of Public Lands and its policy-making body with the Department of Lands of Natural Resources to create a single independent agency. Sponsored by House Vice Speaker Alejo M. Mendiola, the new law is intended to avoid potential conflict in administering public lands which legislators maintained is inherent in the current system where the executive branch has authority over DPL and BPL.

Dec. 6, 2001

Queens' referral claims balloon to \$.5M

The money owed by the CNMI government's insurance arm to Hawaii-based Queens Medical Center has ballooned to an estimated half-a-million dollars, eliciting a howl of protest from the center. Based on documents obtained by Saipan Tribune, medical claims owed by Group Health and Life Insurance Co. to the Queens Medical Center covering the period from 2000 to 2001 have now reached nearly \$500,000. Queens said the owed amount has grown because Group Health has failed to live up to its promise to pay the center a fixed amount that has previously been agreed upon between the two parties.

Atalig resigns from Transition Committee

A member of the Transition Committee's subcommittee yesterday relinquished his position, citing personal reasons behind his resignation. Department of Public Works Transition Subcommittee member Felipe Atalig submitted his resignation letter to Transition Committee Chair Tom Pangelinan. But sources at the Transition panel disclosed that Atalig rendered his resignation effective immediately following Rep. Stanley Torres' threats.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Federal pay freeze a small step toward budget sanity

(c) 2010, San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)

President Barack Obama's proposal for a two-year wage freeze for civilian federal workers is an important act of leadership. It sets the tone for cost-cutting that still needs to take place in state and local governments across the nation—certainly in California—while reinforcing the president's commitment to sensible spending controls.

This is not a radical proposal. If Congress approves it, the freeze cancels modest pay raises. That's minor compared with the sacrifices of some other public employees and barely a hint of what many private-sector workers have endured.

The \$2 billion it would save this fiscal year is small potatoes in light of the \$1.3 trillion deficit, leading some on the left to call it a gimmick. It's not: Over 10 years, because of compounding, it saves \$60 billion.

The reality is, it's going to take a whole bunch of small-potato moves to get control of the deficit. Obama has made many others, including freezing non-security discretionary spending and White House salaries, angering some allies in the process. There is no acceptable way to balance the budget in one fell swoop.

For cities like San Jose, which will be asking for more concessions to avoid massive layoffs in June, the federal example is powerful. It's harder to make the debate personal, as factions in San Jose seem to do, when the need for cuts is so clear nationally.

It's unfortunate that the brunt of this wage freeze falls on 2.1 million middle-class Americans. Obama's announcement Monday included an elegant homage to their hard work: "They're doctors and nurses who care for our veterans. Scientists who search for better treatments and cures. Men and women who care for our national parks and secure our borders and our skies."

While the freeze is good policy, its critics are right about one thing. It's another example of middle-class losses while the rich grow richer. Whether through tax policy or other avenues, Obama must hold out for a long-term deficit-reduction plan that spreads the pain across all income levels. Failure to do that will only lead to further economic instability and decline.



We will never prosper unless...

We will never prosper until we take control of our economy. Outsiders cannot do it for us. They are here for their own benefits, not ours. We must learn how to take control and run our own economy. Only then will we become prosperous again!

The other day a friend asked me how the CNMI can best become prosperous again. To begin with, I told him to look in the telephone book and study who owns the various businesses listed there. Why?

Take a telephone book and slowly page through all the various businesses. Look at grocery stores of which there are over 120. How many are operated by local owners with local employees? Next page over to auto repair shops. There are about 50 more or less. How many are operated by local owners and with local employees? How many auto trades people do we have repairing cars?

All of us enjoy air-conditioning. But how many locally owned and operated air-condition shops do we have? One or two? Take a glance at beauty and barber shops. There isn't a single locally operator or owned one in all of Saipan. Page through trades and construction companies. Where are the local owners?

The other day the Northern Marianas Housing HUD put out a bid for maintenance of their 82 houses over the next two years. Eight companies bid. The Northern Marianas Trades Institute was the only local labor and local company to bid. The other seven were all non-indigenous owned. Why does it have to be like this?

How many people are studying accounting to replace the hundreds of non-resident accountants who will have to leave in a few years? Keep looking and you will come to a sad realization. We locals own and operate almost none of the businesses that we spend our money in!

Of all the businesses in our islands, I estimate that about 85 percent to 90 percent are owned and operated by non-indigenous (non-U.S. citizens) people. No, I am not saying that they are illegal. My concern is where are we, the indigenous? Somehow our dream and that of our children always seems to be that we want to work for the government. That is our goal. Let's ask ourselves why?

We have never acquired an entrepreneurial desire to own and operate our own businesses. Think of all the employment and high earnings opportunities lost. How many of us desire to own and operate our own business? How many of us are willing to take the risk? Somehow we must reclaim many of the small businesses that we have neglected. We must throw away the dream of working for the government. It is a dead end road.

This year we have learned a bitter lesson that governments are a world unto themselves and care little for its employees. Sadly consider the betrayal by our administrations over the past years to the Government Retirement Fund. The government deducted money from our paychecks and had a fiduciary duty to deposit it into the Retirement Fund. But instead it used our money somewhere else. If you and I as businesspersons were to take our employees' deductions and misuse them, we would most likely go to jail. Need I say more?

Consider the thousands of us who put our faith and trust in the

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

government. We thought we would be able to retire comfortably. The fund is over \$318,000,000 short funded! Now what do we do?

We must learn to work for ourselves in the stores, in the restaurants, on the farms, in whatever it takes to recapture our lost opportunities. We can learn to become a nation of shopkeepers if we create a desire. We must own and operate our own businesses for therein lies our economic power!

Too long we have allowed outsiders to operate our necessary professions. Too long we have refused to study to assume the responsible positions as nurses, as doctors, as professional managers and many others.

For example, I asked a friend of mine who teaches nursing at NMC how many students he has. He replied that he has 27 nursing students, but not one local nursing student. They are all outsiders. Why don't we have more local doctors? We have over 70 local lawyers. Why is the number so high while in medicine we have only a few doctors? We don't even have local X-ray technicians. This has to change or we will never grow.

We keep begging and hoping that foreign investors will flock to our shores and invest here. But what if we did the investing, owning and operating ourselves? We have people here with capital that when pooled together can build facilities and activities for our tourist market as well as any foreign investors. If we are not the sole investors, why do we not become at least investment partners? Why do we keep giving away our diamonds to others?

The overlooked aspect of our government is the investment in its people. America became wealthy and the land of the "American Dream" because it tapped into the energies and work of its people. It managed to invest in human capital by taking smart, motivated people and educated them to become self-reliant and independent from the morasses of government.

Ultimately jobs are created from the bottom up by individuals and companies, not from the top down by government directives. The government's role should be to motivate individuals to become business owners. The only way for this to happen is for all political parties to come together. All must believe this truth: "A country is only as strong as its educated and trained people."

I can hear someone saying: But where is the money needed to start all these businesses going to come from? There is no shortage of money. There is only a shortage of determination to become

See PROSPER on Page 13

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Responsibility

The word “responsibility” points to the ability to respond, or being response-able. It does not simply mean thinking in a similar fashion, or empathetically feeling the same, or having all sense faculties of sight, sound, smell, taste and touch reflexively in sync. It clearly means the ability to act, to do, or to perform a deed.

An ambitious but serious and dedicated group in the ’70s attempted to create a new religious mode after mining the depth of the ecumenical movement to be more than just the breaking of bread among separated siblings from the same Eucharistic table, but rather recognizing a common progeny from the same fountain of human spirit, the birthmark of anyone who ever shows up in this earth, reformulating a new social vehicle on behalf and for the sake of the diverse and pluriform glocal society that was emerging across the globe.

A tall order, yes, successfully done, hardly. In fact, the remnants in diaspora bear incredible scars in their psyches and the souls, a bit short in appropriating failure to make bullseye in the grand archery of their lives, but knowing that their consciousness have been forever altered, and that they would not have it any other way. The members of that particular journey, not too significant in personal and institutional stature, have left a new understanding that not surprisingly, are echoed in unexpected places, either as direct consequence of their covenanted experiment, or as a recognizable mirror occurrence of the same spirit movement that they recognized shimmering under the surface of human consciousness.

Singers like Billy Joel crooned vivid images of my generation in the song, *We didn’t light the fire*, or in the metaphor of John Lennon’s *Imagine* of the Fab Four. Neil Diamond wailed, *I am, I said*, reflecting individuality coming into self-consciousness, while a pugilist named Cassius Clay, later Mohammed Ali, forcefully jab with his gab and proven fancy footwork, *I am the Greatest*. Earlier, Pablo Picasso expressed in his artform the depth of human depravity in his painting, *Guernica*, with the misplaced flower in the horrendous wreckage blown into exuberant dance, an embracing affirmation even in defeat, in Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba the Greek*; Elvis the Pelvis later gave permission to everyone to rock their booty and roll! Rod Serling of the Twilight Zone-fame would leave us with

Silensiu Na Pagyu

I mañglu Desiembre guaifon yan maneñgheñg. Ta hala saban-asta gi chagechag chatagmag para tana’ maipen ñaihon hit. Mañge’ na maneñgheñg mientras to kontinua maigu’ tuyan, tananañga oran mamatinas fina’ amotsa yan kafe.

Lau pagu na finatton mañglu mampos na’fugu achogha’ esta malofan i sirenu. I señgoñg lokue mampos silensiu. I hagas magof na matan tautau siha man-malahyu. I hagas atileghon na fasun niha man-tisu.

Hu sesiente ha’ i taduñg hinasson niha pot hafa mohon para u fan finatoigüe yan manana si Yuus agupa. I asuntu ti siña ma-oppe ensegidas. Kulan un’ dibina ni un’ tuñgu lau ti un’ tuñgu’ gi mismu tiempu.

Mas oppan sentimenton todus gi fina’ dinaña nobena, lisayu ‘sino enteru. Tat ti fumofofu pot didog na mattiron tiempon eskases. Ya maseha sumen makat, ni unu listu para u abandona obligasion familia. Kada unu satton guine na patte.

Ha afuestsasyu bumisita tatte i hagas lugat guelu yan guela. Era hu espipiha taimano na libre i presente na hinarasion natibu lau mas fotte pinadesen antes. Umanog klaru na mesñgun yan mipasensia si guelu gi halom mattiron linala’. Ya maseha megai besis ni mana’ mamahlau, ha pañot ennau siha na aminasu pot interest yan proteksion i manatatte na famaguon natibu.

Gi hilu todü mattiru, mitinanom yan pinegsai si guelu para mantension familia. Diariamente abundansia gi lamasan sena finachucho’ña entalu kinisechan tanu yan tasi. Humidde na finapos ha pokate gi halom kandet falut, achon gi halom tasi yan aladon

taut performances of a slice of life in *A Requiem to a Heavyweight*.

The Order Ecumenical that called itself out of being in 1988 worded the Beatles theme to the movie, *Yellow Submarine*, with the wisdom of a mild-mannered German theologian who wrestled with the issue of ethics, the methodology of response-ability, appropriate for our time. Dietrich Bonhoeffer decided that the responsible person is one who is at once fully free and obedient to God (the way life is) and neighbor.

*Free men (sic) live in responsibility,
duty bound and free, in relativity;
Free men live in responsibility,
whoever they may be, their deeds are history.*

One will recognize the age when this was written for it was still admissible to use the generic term “men” to refer to both genders, no longer appropriate nor politically correct at present.

*Observe and judge the given facts.
Weigh up the value, decide and act.
You’re alone, completely free,
Leave the judgment to history.*

Paradox is not the province of the simpleton, the feeble mind, or the weak kneed. It does not offer certitude or surety. But “action removes the doubt that theory cannot solve,” was once pronounced out of the Oval Office ‘where the buck stops here’. We concur.

*To no principle, no law,
to no authority can you withdraw.
You decide it all alone,
Right from right and wrong from wrong.*

Freedom is scary, for the exercise of one’s possibilities is performed in dutiful and obedient recognition of one’s limits. I can freely decide to play for the NBA but my 5’4” height will not get me far.

Obligation is the call;

guaka gi plaset gualu.

Sige talu hu akanteha hafa na mesñgon i natibu gi halom chubaskon chinatsaga. Dinaña familia i fitme na pogse’ ni gumuot todus. Dañkulu korason natibu man-nae’ ayudu gi na’mase’. Magof konsensiaña ‘nai ha lagnos kanaña man-ayuda gi prohimuña. Estague’ sensiata ni ginigiot ni pogse’ satton yan matatñga na sensian natibu, piot gi oran mattiru siha.

Esta pagu este na kustumbreta memetgot ha’ gi entalo’ familia yan tautauta. Patte yan petmanente este i man-ayuda gi tradision tanu. Namatman i minesñgon natibu gi halom rimulinon sumen chatsaga na tiempu ni mafananaan eskases.

Tafan dañ gi hilu pinasensia, inaguaiya yan esperansa yan familiata guine gi haanen gupot siha. Ta gagau lokue i Saina bendis- ionta puede ke u lanahlalañ i makat na katgu gi apaga’ta. Silensiu na pagyu gi ha’anita pagu na tiempu lau chamu sesede sa metgotña sensiata gi halom chubaskon linala.

■■■

Buente guaha ‘nai in’ hiñgog finu’ man-amku na “guaha ha’ ti para hita”. Pot ihemplo, mañgone’yu dos midianu na ayuyu gi chalan Tagpochau. Dañkulun planuhu para bai’ pogsai pot para bai’ kaddun niyog gigon layomug.

Lau ‘nai hu aliligau para bai’ pega gi sagaña, taigue. Mattu dispues si nanahu ya ha faisenyu hafa hu aliligau. Ilegña i amku, “Guaha ha’ lai hu ti para hita”. Kadu konfotmeyu lau adahe na chagu lugat ya para u fattu ha’ talu si guelu kumune’guanyu ni kinine’hu.

der if these public officials have any moral obligation to our two million Americans who need help now and who want their employment benefits extended this December and this is not a good political move.

My hypothetical question is what if the Republicans came into office in January and decided to shut down federal monies given to the CNMI? I mean it’s bad enough the CNMI is reeling with payless paydays and I wonder if the CNMI can even survive paying its government employees. This may be your administration but if the federal government shuts down then your administration is nothing but a borrow-money government. The CNMI is only surviving because of all the millions the federal government is pouring into our islands. I can’t say this is my administration, this is the federal government state administration and that is a fact of life.

When it comes to states they only survive because the federal government helps regulate them and whenever public officials abuse their authority there is no fiscal responsibility. So now our fel-

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.

*to God and neighbor surrender all.
The free venture is the deed
rendered up to meet the need.*

Bonhoeffer left fascist Germany for a safe posting in NYC’s Union Theological Seminary close to Columbia U on Riverside Drive by the Hudson, but he decided to return on his own volition, not only to lead the non-establishment evangelical church, but to join the underground in plotting the assassination of Adolf Hitler. The effort, Hollywood-ized last year in a Tom Cruise movie, cost Dietrich his life as he and his collaborators were executed a few hours before Allied forces liberated Berlin.

Ingrained in the Judeo-Christian-Islamic traditions that we may appropriate if we can transcend the totalitarianism of the religious fundamentalists, is this dictum: the indicative is the imperative, expressed in the Jewish mysterious symbol *YHWH* (that which is, is the only reality) and the Moslem Arabic word *Allah* (reality is not-a-thing). All our moralisms of “oughts and should-bes” are naught before this awesome reality. What IS, is simply what IS. The only authority is authenticity.

Planet earth did not come with a manual of operations, nor is there a blue print for any individual life. Rationalities offered for failures or successes by economists, politicians, and other figures are all malarkey, and the biggest boo-ga-boo of all that any child can recognize for its fakery, is the pruning and prancing with the obnoxious message: *I am doing this for you*. It is the solitary self that decides, alone and free. The responsible person acts, then let it go!

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.

■■■

Hu hoñge lokue dispues na guaha gi entre hita ti umanae’ gi halom tanu. Diberas, tula noche lumiliku-yu ume-ayuyu ya ni unu hu kone’.

Gi oran ‘las dos gi chatagmag ilegña un’ chetluhu maulegña u koneyu para i lanchu mientras makontinunua man-kasadules. Hu osge pot lokue estayu yayas yan matuhog.

Gi oran ‘la sais, man-mattu yan ‘nos kuantos kostat ayuyu kontodu manog hatsadu. Mana’ seguru na masañaneyu na yangin sumagayu tatte, pues ti u fan mañgone taimanu i makikili’ guatu gi lanchu. Mattu gi dimalasyu gi bandan kasadules.

■■■

Para todü i pinadese na tiempu, magahet na silensiu i pagyu ni yumiyilulog hit pagu na biahen haanen gupot siha. Munga hinalañ ni unabes. Siempre u suha lokue este na mattiru.

Letter to the Editor

Special interest groups are not special

It’s obvious that when public officials have been paid off years after years by special interest groups there will be no order in our government.

For example all 42 Republicans decided not to work on the Senate floor debate to pass important bills unless the Democrats agree to their bills—a tax bonus for the fat cat millionaires.

And we the tax payers—middle class Americans—are expected to pay for these fat cats’ bonuses like we are not suffering enough? I won-

low Americans are struggling and suffering because our own leaders decided to work for the special interest groups and not work for our people, while some honest public officials are willing to fight for our working aliens and citizens of the United States of America.






A college student cries when she heard on the news that the Republicans decided not to cooperate or work with their fellow Democrats to pass unemployment benefits which help her mom and dad. She is thinking of quitting college to go look for work to help her mom and dad, both of whom could lose their car and home due to no fault of their own but the irresponsible actions by people who run our economy. If this ever happens to my family I will also quit college and find a job to support my mother and my aunty so let’s hope that nothing like this will ever happen. This is very sad.

Joaquin O. Romolor
South University student, Portland, OR

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼78
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲83 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼75

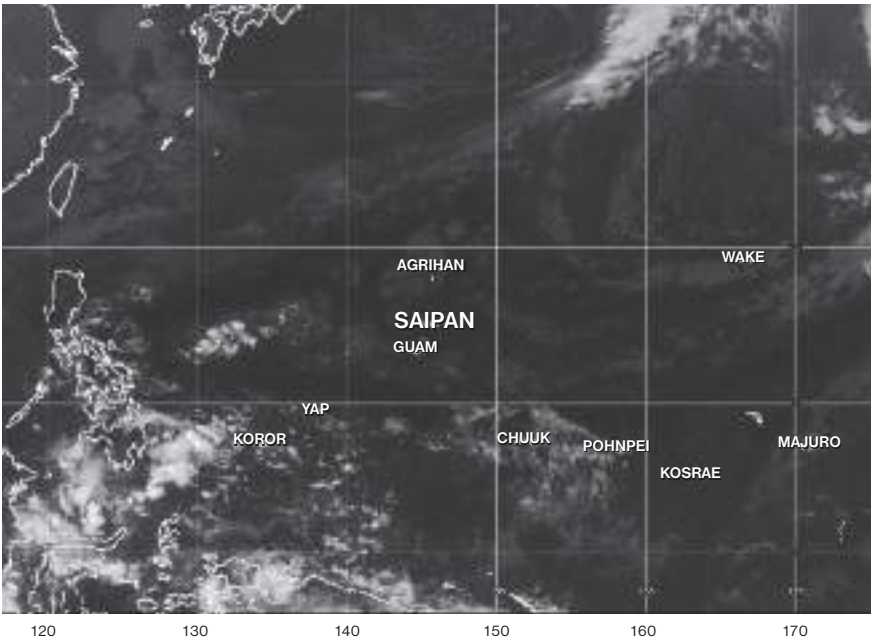
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲44 ▼22
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼50
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81 ▼69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲29 ▼24
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼75
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲81 ▼65
Miami	Sunny	▲71 ▼42
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲39 ▼29
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲55 ▼45
Paris	Snow	▲36 ▼30
Pusan	Showers	▲51 ▼36
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲62 ▼49
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲51 ▼42
San Francisco	Showers	▲62 ▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲40 ▼26
Tokyo	Showers	▲59 ▼46
Washington, DC	Windy	▲42 ▼30

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
1:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
8:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
2:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
6:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs southeastward from 5N130E to EQ135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near Koror between 9N and 4N from 130E to 135E and also southeast of Yap between 6N and 2N from 140E to 144E. A weakening cold front stretches southwestward from 25N174E to 20N161E then turns northwestward to end near Minami Tori Shima. Isolated thunderstorms are found northeast of Wake Island within 70 miles of a line from 23N171E to 25N174E. An upper-level trough extends southeastward from a low centered at 25N174E to beyond the date line at 18N. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are found well east of Wake Island between 23N and 19N from 178E to the date line.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:43 AM	6:12 PM
Tuesday	7:39 AM	7:09 PM
Wednesday	8:31 AM	8:05 PM
Thursday	9:18 AM	8:59 PM
Friday	10:00 AM	9:49 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM+Palau	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM+Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM+Palau	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM+Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

- Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
 - *11 on any PTI cellular phone
 - Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

O P I N I O N

Letter to the Editor

True to the game

The purpose of any competition is to literally “breed quality” into the competition and the competitors. Most of the participants in the various competitions are usually dedicated to their sport and their team but the ones who really excel are the ones who practice the hardest and remain true to their sport and team. It’s too bad that many voters and many of our politicians didn’t learn these lessons from competition in their formative years because I can see people in government and in our society who are not true to the game of politics in the CNMI nor are they true to their self-proclaimed political party and that’s just one of the major reasons we are in this economic and political mess.

There are so many people amazed at how the Covenant Party has been able to maintain a political superiority even though we the people have been experiencing Bitter Times and the worst of times in the CNMI since the founding of the Commonwealth. The answer is really simple the Covenant Party is the ONLY united party, meaning they have the only true team with members that are dedicated which helps to prove that politics is a true team sport. But if you think about it the GOP is the only political team that has delivered any form of prosperity to the CNMI, which is the focus of this lesson.

Rep. Diego Benavente has to be considered as one of our best politicians on Capital Hill, yet he may be subjected to more betrayal by his own party members in his quest to become the new speaker. It was really disturbing for me to read this about the GOP again in the news. Their behavior is a clear example of team members who are not true to the team or the people they asked to elect them as GOP members, which is something a blind person can see. How can you trust people who are not true? I personally think they should be cast out of the GOP if they go against the party’s opportunity to gain the leadership of the Lower House. The GOP needs to get serious and put an end to the betrayals and even mutinies for the sake of the party and the future of

the CNMI. The two traitors should be publicly branded for what they are and forced to live with the political results of their own deeds—it’s called holding people accountable for being TRUE to the game and their team.

There have been too many CNMI politicians playing the personal Party Game by changing parties at every opportunity for them to make personal gains, not gains for the people! In fact, that is a big part of the reason why the present speaker has to go—too much personal politics and nothing getting done for the people. Rep. Diego Benavente was so right when he said, “There are just too many challenges we’re encountering and I am frustrated with the lack of effort in resolving these issues. People have been suffering from the economic hardships, the payless paydays, the reduction in salaries, the reduction in public services. What it takes is a greater cooperation between the two houses and it is what’s lacking right now because of infighting between the leaderships.”

I’m frustrated like Rep. Benavente and there are people doing a lot worse than me while the CNMI is going nowhere fast and getting worse each day. The only thing our present speaker has done is created disruption, tried to fire everyone like he did during his administration and promote casinos—duh! Voters may not realize it but by having a “dysfunctional major party” it opens the door WIDE open for a dysfunctional government, which is how the speaker got elected and how we got into the political and economic mess we are in today—thanks primarily to the betrayal and infighting of the GOP.

Rep. Benavente didn’t say it but the infighting runs deeper and further than the Legislature. Not only do we have elected officials not being true to the game and their party but we also have voters who say they are Republicans but they are still infighting and stabbing the party in the back when they get in the voting booth. It is clear to me that the voters are presenting an even bigger challenge because it was voters who put everyone

in office including the Speaker. If the GOP politicians can’t reunite now to help one of their best politicians take the leadership role, it may be a signal that the GOP is a dying party and a re-energizing of the Covenant Team with more GOP support. Rep. Benavente may be the GOP’s best hope for regaining the executive office in the next general election and it is truly horrific to think his fellow GOP members would actually try to stand in the way of his proven ability to lead the Lower House, especially when he is trying to promote progress and real improvements for the CNMI.

Everyone that is half way informed on the politics of the CNMI know the GOP is divided and I warned the GOP prior to the delegate election about the importance of re-uniting. The GOP lost again in the delegate race and now we the people have to suffer with the voters who chose to send the wrong player to Washington. It is common sense that you don’t send a single person to a competition that clearly requires a team but that is what we did when we elected Kilili, which I will discuss in the second part of this series. But now we have two GOP members that are flirting with destroying the opportunity of Rep. Benavente to be speaker even though he is on their team—I know this doesn’t make sense to anyone with common sense and these two need wake up before they vote their political future away. I want to know who these two are because we don’t need any more personal party gamers in office on the Hill—the speaker has ruined it for everyone that will follow in this pattern of party jumping for power.

I just hate we the people are caught up in these personal games and can’t do anything for years to change things, which is why our vote is so important and why our vote must be cast in the interest of the big picture of the Commonwealth with a focus on the future, not the past. One people one direction for putting the best in office and for getting rid of officials who can’t be true to the game and their own party because they are the very reason we the people are suffering and so divided today going nowhere fast!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former BOE Teacher Rep

L O C A L

Brilliant Star treats community to early holiday bazaar

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Community members were treated to a special holiday treat yesterday as Brilliant Star School held another holiday bazaar at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Hundreds of people—mostly children of various ages—graced the whole day event that was highlighted by a variety of performances.

Heather Kennedy, one of the parent coordinators of the event, was elated on the turnout and described the event as a good opportunity for guests to shop for their holiday gifts.

This year marked the sixth year of the school’s holiday bazaar—a showcase of unique and beauti-

ful items especially designed for families and loved ones.

Kennedy said the annual bazaar also serves as the Brilliant Star’s biggest fundraiser of the year for the school’s tuition assistance for students and for the maintenance of the school playground.

Vendors offered a variety of arts and crafts displays such as hand-crafted jewelry and souvenir items.

The guests were also treated to performances from various community cultural and art groups.

Among those that performed were the Doremi School of Music, RC Sablan School of Music, Taiji & Chinese Tea Ceremony, Glushko’s Academy of Performing Arts, Shirley’s pres-

ents “Hapi the Clown,” Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Concert Band, Keynote School of Music, Angel’s International School of Dance, and Larry Lee’s Ukelele Group.

Participants also went home with exciting prizes as the school held its annual raffle drawing. Bento lunch boxes were also available at the venue.

As a special treat for kids, Kennedy said Brilliant Star also set up an arts and crafts area so that children could remain occupied during the day. The event was also organized by Lina Villagomez, one of the parent coordinators.

Founded in 1999, Brilliant Star is a private non-profit school serving students from toddlers of 18 months through third grade. At present, it has an enrollment between 80 and 90 students.

The school represents a spectrum of nationalities on island and its mission is to provide an environment that will help children develop four key qualities: global understanding, service to humanity, exemplary character, and a creative mind.

Brilliant Star uses an internationally acclaimed curriculum and teaching approach that leads each child to their highest academic potential, and to their fullest development as a human being. Brilliant Star uses experienced teachers trained in the Montessori method to implement the curriculum.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Young performers from Glushko’s Academy of Performing Arts wowed the crowd during a special performance at Brilliant Star School 6th Annual Holiday Bazaar held yesterday at Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Bainimarama hails reopening of Fiji Water

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Sun)—The Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama has welcomed the decision yesterday by Fiji Water to re-open its operations.

Commodore Bainimarama reiterated that the government remains committed to “encouraging investment in Fiji”.

The decision by Fiji Water to re-open came after the lawyers of the American company, Craig Cooper and Marigold Moody met the Prime Minister and Attorney-General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum Wednesday.

Commodore Bainimarama said the decision by Fiji Water to remain open was a timely one and it demonstrated the compa-

ny’s confidence on the stability of the nation.

“Government is pleased that Fiji Water has decided to come on board and show its commitment to the country and its people,” Commodore Bainimarama said.

He said government had received positive comments from the business community, locally and abroad during the

past week following the 2011 National Budget address and the Fiji-Australia, Australia-Fiji, NZ-Fiji and Fiji-NZ business councils meetings on Government’s economic policies.

On Monday, Fiji Water’s President John Cochran said the new 15 cent per liter water

tax, which was announced at the 2011 Budget address last week, was untenable and the company had no choice but to close.

Fiji Water has since agreed to comply with Fiji’s new water tax law, which imposes a 15 per cent per liter levy from 2011 if the company extracts more than 3.5 million liters of water a month up from the current one-third of one cent rate.

Fiji Water is the only company extracting that much water.

The closure came 10 days after the government deported an American executive of Fiji Water, David Roth, for allegedly interfering in Fiji’s domestic affairs.

In 2008, the government rescinded a 20-cent per liter tax after Fiji Water briefly shut down its plant and put 700 people out of work.



Bainimarama

PROSPER

From Page 10

an independent employer. Lack of money is the least of our concerns.

Let me cite one source. The USDA Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program is designed to assist people who wish to start a business in rural communities such as the CNMI.

Rural Development works with lenders and entrepreneurs to expand the existing private lending structure to qualified borrowers by providing government guaranteed loans. We can borrow up to 80 percent for guaranteed loans of \$5 million, 70 percent of loans of \$10 million and 60 percent for loans up to \$25 million. This is only one of the many loan proposals available. Search them out.

There is money available. So that cannot be an excuse.

I can go on and on preaching until I am blue in the face and until you are sick of listening and finally tell me to shut up. But I am willing to work with anyone to help them get started. Please email me at tonypell@pticom.com or call me at 287-8310. I do not promise success, but perhaps I can direct you in the right path.

I believe in us. Why don’t you also believe in us? As Napoleon Hill states in his ever popular book: Think and Grow Rich: What the mind of man can conceive and believe in, he can achieve. God has given us the ability to think. With that ability we can overcome our problems.

The world becomes better because of the believer and the risks he takes. We will never

become prosperous until we take up our hoe and start to dig up the diamonds under our feet. The term AMERICAN DREAM was coined during the Great Depression, a time of desperation and despair similar to ours today. James Truslow Adams published his book in 1931, in an atmosphere of even greater despair than today. He said The American Dream “was of a better,

richer and happier life for all our citizens of every rank....”

Yes, today adverse forces really do look overwhelming. But challenges like them have been beaten back before—and can be again! Let us create an uprising and create a CNMI DREAM! We can do it! We have the power and opportunities. Let us screw up our courage and make it happen! Dig up the diamonds under our feet!

Business

Marianas Medical officially opens today

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@yahoo.com
REPORTER

Marianas Medical Center's Garapan branch officially opens its doors to the public today after a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Dec. 3 attended by a number of dignitaries and guests.

The new facility located at JKR Building along Beach Road in Garapan aims to continue providing premier medical and health care services in the Commonwealth in addition to the first branch in San Antonio.

Owner Dr. Anthony Stearns, wife Janet McCullough, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez spearheaded the ribbon cutting.

Fr. Celso G. Magbanua Jr. officiated the blessing of the newly revamped building adjacent to the Garapan Fishing Base.

In his remarks, the governor expressed his delight as the ribbon cutting ceremony was the third he has attended last week.

Fitial also graced with his presence the grand opening of Coconut Beach Club owned by Tasi Tours on Dec. 1 and the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Central Garapan Waterline Project Friday morning.

"It is remarkable to see in one week's span, development



Marianas Medical Center owner Dr. Anthony Stearns, second left, prepares to cut the ribbon during the grand opening of Marianas Medical Center's Garapan branch on Dec. 3. Joining him are, from left, Janet McCullough, Stearns' wife; Gov. Benigno R. Fitial; and Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez. Inset, Fr. Celso G. Magbanua Jr., right, leads the prayer during the grand opening of Marianas Medical Center's Garapan branch located at JKR Building last Friday.

in three different areas: from tourism, to infrastructure, and now, health care. These signs of growth and other ongoing projects are promising indications for our community and our people," he said.

The governor thanked Stearns

for his commitment to the Commonwealth that spanned over 25 years, with the Garapan branch as his latest contribution to the community.

Stearns initially worked with the U.S. Public Health Service/National Health Service Corps

when he moved to Saipan in 1984. He also served in the former Dr. Torres Hospital and the Commonwealth Health Center before he established Marianas Medical Center San Antonio branch in 1998.

Fitial said the number of

people that has put their confidence and trust in Marianas Medical Center's 12 years of operation continues to grow as it improves the quality of health care in the CNMI.

"Quality health care is always a very important aspect

of our daily lives. With this new branch, MMC will now offer a wider range of medical care and services," he added.

Public Health secretary Villagomez said they encourage the growth of private sector health care as it brings about more savings for the local government.

"We will continue to work hand in hand with you and continue to mandate that the best possible health care is available for the people of the Commonwealth. I look forward to the success of Marianas Medical Center and all the other health care providers in the Commonwealth," he said.

Stearns expressed his appreciation to all the people whom he said have helped Marianas Medical Center get to where it is today.

"I'm honored by your presence and support you've given me and my practice over the years that I've been here in the Commonwealth. I look forward to continuing that service and working with all of you in the years to come," he said.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

WikiLeaks loses major source of revenue

BERLIN (AP)—WikiLeaks has lost a major source of revenue after the online payment service provider PayPal cut off its account used to collect donations, saying the website is engaged in illegal activity. The announcement also came as WikiLeaks is struggling to keep its website accessible after service providers such as Amazon dropped contracts, and governments and hackers continued to hound the organization. The weekend move by PayPal came as WikiLeaks' release of hundreds of thousands of United States diplomatic cables brought commercial organizations on the Internet that have business ties with the organization under more scrutiny.

Brazil's Vale says HK shares to start trading

HONG KONG (AP)—Brazil's Vale mining company says a secondary listing of its shares will start trading on the Hong Kong stock exchange on Wednesday as it seeks greater access to China and other Asian markets. Vale said Sunday the shares will be in the form of two classes of Hong Kong Depositary Receipts. They will be the first Hong Kong Depositary Receipts to trade on the city's stock exchange since the framework was set up more than two years ago.

South Korean trade minister defends deal with US

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's top trade official on Sunday defended a hard-fought compromise with the United States on a stalled free trade agreement by rejecting accusations that his government gave up too much to seal the deal.

Kim and U.S. Trade representative Ron Kirk reached a final agreement Friday after marathon negotiations near Washington that focused on U.S. demands that South Korea rework the deal to address its big trade surplus in automobiles.

The South Korea-U.S. free trade agreement was originally signed in June 2007, but steps to ratify it stalled amid changes in government in both countries, the global financial crisis and American demands not just on autos but that South Korea loosen restrictions on American beef imports.

South Korea, which long said it would not budge on the initial deal, ultimately compromised and addressed key U.S. concerns on autos, though says it dug in on beef and got benefits in return such

as the U.S. agreeing to a two-year delay in the elimination of South Korean tariffs on pork imports.

"I cannot agree with some views that (the agreement was the result) of our unilateral concession," Kim, the trade minister, told reporters Sunday at a packed news conference, calling it a "win-win" deal.

Kim returned to South Korea on Saturday after participating in final negotiations in the U.S. Before becoming trade minister he was South Korea's chief negotiator on the

original agreement, which was concluded in April 2007 after 10 months of talks that just barely beat a deadline imposed by Congress.

The push to move the deal forward came after talks last month in Seoul between President Barack Obama and his South Korean counterpart Lee Myung-bak failed to achieve a breakthrough.

Last week's effort also took place after North Korea's deadly artillery barrage on a small South Korean island, though Kim said the attack

had no impact on Seoul's willingness to compromise and that he engaged in the negotiations "completely" from an economic point of view.

Hours before Kim spoke in Seoul, Obama praised the deal as a landmark agreement that promises to boost the domestic auto industry and support tens of thousands of American jobs.

"This agreement shows the U.S. is willing to lead and compete in the global economy," he told reporters Saturday at the White House, calling it a triumph for American workers.

US cable: China leaders ordered hacking on Google

BEIJING (AP)—Sources told American diplomats that hacking attacks against Google were ordered by China's top ruling body and a senior leader demanded action after finding search results critical of him, leaked U.S. government cables show.

The American Embassy sent a cable to Washington saying a source told diplomats the Chinese government coordinated late last year's attacks on Google under the direction of the Politburo Standing Committee.

It was impossible to verify the details of the cables, but if

true, they show the political pressures facing Google when it decided in March to close its China-based search engine.

The cable about the hacking attacks against Google, which was classified as secret by Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Goldberg, was released by WikiLeaks to The New York Times and The Guardian newspapers.

It notes that it is unclear if Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao were aware of these reported actions before Google went public about the attacks in January.

Another source said in that cable he believed an official on the top political body was "working actively with Chinese Internet search engine Baidu against Google's interests in China."

Google's relations with Beijing have been tense since the U.S.-based search giant said in January it no longer wanted to cooperate with Chinese Web filtering following computer hacking attacks on Google's computer code and efforts to break into the e-mail accounts of human rights activists.

Google closed its China-based search engine March 22 and began routing users to its unfiltered Hong Kong site.

Google's spokeswoman in Tokyo, Jessica Powell, said the company had no comment on the cables released by Wikileaks, and on the hacking attacks, referred to a January statement that said it had evidence that the attack came from China. Google did not release any details then.

A man who answered the phone at the spokesperson's office of the Ministry of Industry

and Information Technology said no one was around to comment Sunday. Calls to the State Council Information Office and the Foreign Ministry rang unanswered.

A separate cable released by WikiLeaks showed a Politburo member demanded action against Google after looking for his own name on the search engine and finding criticism of him.

The May 18, 2009, cable did not identify the leader but The New York Times reported it was propaganda chief Li Changchun, the fifth-ranked official in the country.

Nation

Terrorism makes New York more wary, gradually

NEW YORK (AP)—Not far from the New York Stock Exchange, a small crowd of tourists stopped to watch as a bomb-sniffing dog checked out a delivery van. The cobblestoned street was blocked by a line of brass cubes with holes that glowed red like the inside of a toaster.

Suddenly an entire section of the street rotated, cobblestones and all. The cubes moved out of the van's way and their holes turned green. The crowd "ah-hed" with surprise.

Welcome to New York, a city where every year since 9/11, tighter security has changed the landscape a little bit at a time, more noticeable to the tourists crowding the streets for the holidays than the residents who have been here all along.

"There are so many police," said Jackie Carey, 71, of Wilmington, Del., as she looked over Rockefeller Plaza crowds from the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral. "There's like about five policemen on the corner. How many policemen does it take for you to get across the street?"

At Radio City Music Hall, guards check holiday tourists' purses for weapons before the Rockettes' Christmas Spectacular. In Herald Square, new cameras stare down at shoppers.

In rail stations, travelers are bombarded with messages warning them to be on the lookout for suspicious activity. There are poison-gas sensors and radiation detectors, automatic license plate readers and random bag searches in the subways.

The Woolworth Building, a 1913 skyscraper that used to



In this Dec. 2, 2010 photo, Paula Bosco, right, and Maria DeAngelo, both from Freehold, N.J., ask police officers for directions inside the 42nd Street subway station, in New York.

attract hundreds of tourists a day to its ornate lobby, now has a sign at the door saying "Tourists Are Not Permitted Beyond This Point."

Visitors to the Statue of Liberty must go through two separate, airport-style security checkpoints. Taking pictures of the PATH trains that run under

the Hudson is illegal. Even the city's architecture is changing: closed "sky lobbies" are replacing ground-level public spaces; vehicle barriers are de rigueur.

At Rockefeller Plaza, concrete barriers emblazoned with "NYPD" blocked part of the streets running through the promenade, which draws thousands of visitors to see its Christmas tree and ice skating rink.

In the subways, train conductors tell passengers, "If you see something, say something." So do posters and ticket machines. Police conduct occasional spot checks, setting up a table in stations and searching travelers' bags at random.

Times Square—now partly transformed into a pedestrian mall—sports wider sidewalks aimed at creating buffer zones around high-profile buildings. Nearly every lamppost now has at least two domed cameras and an antenna for beaming live images to police.

"Cameras, cameras and more cameras," said Robert Jacobs, 30, a visitor from Chicago. "Makes you wonder who's got time to watch it all."

Computers, that's who. In a command center that opened

in 2008, software searches constantly for suspicious activity, such as an object that does not move for a long time. The computers can also search for specific shapes and colors, such as a suspect wearing a green jacket. In September, police added 500 more cameras to the system.

Farther south, parts of lower Manhattan are now thickets of vehicle barriers and police checkpoints. Steel plates secured to the ground with thick black chains jut out of the ground in the alleys near Wall Street. Yellow barriers rise and drop silently from the ground at an inspection point near the World Financial Center.

A once-bustling four-lane road that runs past a federal courthouse and the federal jail has been closed to most traffic since 9/11.

At the New York Stock Exchange, a metal fence keeps tourists 30 feet from the building.

Security concerns have also begun to change the look of New York's buildings.

Senate showdown may pave way for year-end tax deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans derailed legislation Saturday to extend expiring tax cuts at all but the highest income levels in a political showdown that paradoxically clears a path for a compromise with the White House on steps to boost the economy.

"We need to get this resolved and I'm confident we can do it," President Barack Obama said shortly after the near party-line votes. The public must have "the peace of mind that their taxes will not go up" on Jan. 1, he added.

Obama has signaled that he will bow to Republican demands for extending tax cuts at all income levels, and his remarks capped a day that lurched between political conflict and talk of compromise on an issue that played a leading role in last month's elections.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., eyeing the 2012 campaign, accused Republicans of siding with "millionaires and billionaires" with their rejection of proposals that would let tax cuts passed during George W. Bush's presidency lapse on

seven-figure incomes.

Republicans noted that unemployment rose to 9.8 percent last month and said it made no sense to raise taxes on anyone in a weak economy. Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., jabbed that Democrats were undergoing a "political catharsis" in public after losing control of the House and surrendering several seats in the Senate in the Nov. 2 election.

But the rhetoric subsided

quickly after the votes, and Senate leaders in both parties said they hoped political clashes



McConnell

would give way to compromise in the next several days.

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, the GOP leader, said he was relatively confident there would be a deal with the White House "not

to raise taxes in the middle of a recession." He said talks were continuing on the length of an extension to be enacted for the

cuts that were put in place in 2001 and 2003.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he hoped for an agreement by the middle or end of next week on legislation that would combine an extension of tax cuts with a renewal of expiring jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed.

Officials have said that in addition to tax cuts and unemployment benefits, the White House wants to include renewal of several other tax provisions that are expiring.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 stabbed in Rose Bowl brawl before USC-UCLA game

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Dozens of fans brawled in a Rose Bowl parking lot before the Southern California-UCLA football game Saturday, leaving two men stabbed, two police officers with minor injuries and three men arrested, authorities said. An estimated 50 to 75 fans of both schools fought at about 4:20 p.m. in a grassy part of Brookside Golf Course that the stadium uses for event parking, Pasadena police Cmdr. Darryl Qualls said. One person was stabbed in the cheek and the other was stabbed in the back during the melee some three hours before the crosstown-rivalry game between the Bruins and Trojans was set to start, Qualls said. Both were taken by ambulance to Huntington Memorial Hospital. He described their condition as stable.

4 rescued after dramatic airplane ditch in Gulf

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—With his engine failing, the pilot of a single-engine plane managed to maneuver the craft and three passengers to a safe splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico on Saturday. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Lynn Lunsford said the pilot of the Piper

Malibu reported engine trouble around 2 p.m. Saturday, and the plane began to descend rapidly from about 26,000 feet. The flight had left Cozumel, Mexico, on its way to New Orleans. The pilot's ability to make radio contact with air-traffic controllers in Houston became spotty as he descended, and his last report to them came a few minutes before the craft hit the water. Commercial jets in the area helped relay visual information and some radio messages that made it to them but not to Houston. One Delta Air Lines pilot went off course to keep an eye on the small plane, Lunsford said.

Mystery surrounds man in publicist killing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He was named a "person of interest" in the killing of a Hollywood publicist, and he shot himself to death as detectives tried to question him—but police say it's still not clear if he played any role in the murder. What is certain about Harold Martin Smith is that he was an armed career criminal possibly looking at another stretch in prison. Documents obtained Friday by The Associated Press reveal that Smith, who acquaintances say had boasted of killing Ronni Chasen for money, was a convicted, two-strikes felon with a long criminal history.

Tow vessel reaches struggling ship in Bering Sea

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A powerful towing vessel reached a struggling cargo ship carrying half a million gallons of fuel in the remote reaches of Alaska's Aleutian Islands, the Coast Guard said.

The two vessels met Saturday evening about 45 miles north of Atka Island in the Bering Sea, Petty Officer David Mosley told The Associated Press.

He said fears that the ship would run aground had eased and it was in no immediate danger.

The 738-foot *Golden Seas*, with a full load of canola seed, suffered engine troubles in strong winds and rough seas Friday that caused it to drift toward Atka Island, about 1,300 miles southwest of Anchorage.

The weather eased during the night and with limited engine power was able to travel at about 3 to 4 mph away from land.

Mosley said operations were under way Saturday night to set

up the tow so the crippled vessel could be brought into Dutch Harbor, about 275 miles away.

"Safety is the paramount concern," said Mosley, noting that waves were 20-feet high.

A Coast Guard cutter was also on the way.

Plans called for the 18,000-horsepower Tor Viking II to tow the *Golden Seas* to Dutch Harbor by Sunday night or Monday morning. It was expected to undergo repairs there.

Responders said the vessel, which is managed by All-seas Marine, based in Athens, Greece, lost its turbo charger. That left it without enough power to overcome 29-foot seas and winds blowing at 45 mph.

Mosley said the Liberia-flagged ship is carrying more than 457,500 gallons of fuel oil, nearly 12,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 10,000 gallons of lube oil.

The ship is en route from Vancouver, Canada, to the Unit-

ed Arab Emirates, the Coast Guard said.

There were no reports of injuries among the 20 crew members on board.

The *Golden Seas* is the latest example of the challenges involved in responding to incidents in the remote region, said Whit Sheard, an Oceana attorney who sits on the Aleutian Island Risk Assessment Advisory Panel, established with criminal settlement funds from the grounding of the *Selendang Ayu* six years ago.

The ship, the same size of the *Golden Seas*, ran aground Dec. 8, 2004, and broke apart on the north side of Unalaska Island, also in the Aleutians. About 66,000 tons of soybeans were lost.

During rescue operations, a rogue wave crashed into a Coast Guard helicopter lifting *Selendang Ayu* crew members from the freighter, and the aircraft crashed. Six of the 10 freighter crew members were killed.

Asia

NKorea lambasts SKorea's new defense chief

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea lambasted South Korea's new defense chief Sunday for threatening to launch air strikes against the North and accused the South of causing "uncontrollable, extreme" tension on the peninsula.

The South's Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin told a confirmation hearing last week that jets would bomb the North if it stages another attack like the shelling on a front-line island that killed four South Koreans. Kim took office Saturday, replacing a predecessor who resigned amid criticism that South Korea's response to the Nov. 23 shelling was too slow and weak.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency issued a statement Sunday accusing the South of staging a series of "frantic provocations" including the defense minister's remarks.

"The frantic provocations ... are rapidly driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to an uncontrollable extreme phase," the official Korean Central News Agency said in a dispatch from Pyongyang.

The dispatch said South Korea plans to stage new naval drills with the United States soon, start its own live-fire drills



Houses destroyed by last week's North Korean shelling still remain intact on the front line island of Yeonpyeong, South Korea, Friday, Dec. 3, 2010.

from Monday and deploy missiles, rockets and other sophisticated weapons to Yeonpyeong Island that was hit by a North Korean artillery barrage.

"The puppet military warlike forces were reported to have already worked out the so-called 'retaliatory plan' which calls for sparking off an armed clash after getting on the nerves of the (North Korean) military and taking a large-scale counteraction under this pretext," it said.

South Korea's military declined Sunday to confirm whether it has such a military retaliation. Joint Chiefs of Staff officers only said a new joint

drill with the U.S.—which would follow last week's massive joint naval drill at Yellow Sea—is still under discussion with Washington and the live-fire exercise is a routine drill that has been scheduled well before the artillery barrage.

Kim inspected an army base near the heavily fortified land border Sunday and urged troops to strengthen their combat capability and mental toughness, according to his office. A day earlier, he visited Yeonpyeong Island and vowed to take strong measures to ensure North Korea would not dare to make more provocations.

Cambodian refugee goes home as US Navy commander

SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia (AP)—The distant thuds of gunfire and bombs weren't nearly as memorable for Michael Misiewicz as fishing barehanded with his older brother in Cambodia's Mekong River.

In 1973, as a 6-year-old then called Vannak Khem, he was more concerned with boys' games than the deepening war—unaware, like most Cambodians, of the trauma that the Khmer Rouge would soon inflict on the country. He had no idea that after his adoption by an American woman that same year, it would take him 37 years to go home.

Misiewicz finally returned

home Friday as commander of the U.S. Navy destroyer USS *Mustin*—reuniting with the relatives who wondered whether they would ever see him alive, and the aunt who helped arrange his adoption. His ship departs Monday.

"Chumreap suor, Om," he greeted 72-year-old Samrith Sokha in the Khmer language, clutching her in a sobbing embrace on the *Mustin*'s sea-swept walkway. "Greetings, Auntie."

The warship has a larger mission: to help the United States as it deepens ties with Cambodia and other nearby nations in a region overshadowed by China's

economic and military clout.

But the ship's arrival in the port of Sihanoukville also ends an odyssey that took Misiewicz, now 43, from the poverty of Cambodian rice fields to the farmlands of the midwestern United States to the helm of a U.S. destroyer.

The process of returning has been intensely emotional, he said: sadness for the more than 1.7 million who died or were killed by the communist Khmer Rouge when they held power in 1975-1979, combined with guilt at his escape from it and joy at seeing the relatives who helped him leave it behind.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thailand marks 83rd birthday of revered king

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand is marking the 83rd birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest reigning monarch, but elaborate celebrations fail to mask concern over his health and the future of the royal institution. Bhumibol delivered his annual birthday speech Sunday, sounding what has become his usual call for unity to keep the country happy and prosperous in the face of the sometimes violent political conflict it has faced in recent years. The king made his brief remarks at the ceremonial Grand Palace in a slow and raspy voice, reflecting his frailty. Thousands of flag-waving citi-

zens cheered his car's journey from Siriraj Hospital, to which he was admitted in September 2009 with a lung inflammation. There has been no detailed explanation of his extended stay.

Malaysian girl, 14, celebrates wedding in public

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A 14-year-old girl and 23-year-old man have celebrated their recent marriage in public in Malaysia's largest city, a report said Sunday, fueling a debate on teen weddings. Underage marriages are allowed for Muslims with court permission and parental consent but are not common in this Muslim-majority country. The New Straits

Times reported the Muslim couple, whose union was arranged by their parents, were married in July after obtaining permission from an Islamic court.

Chemical blast kills 6 at Internet cafe in China

BEIJING (AP)—An explosion caused by stored chemicals has killed six people and injured 37 at an Internet cafe in southwest China. The Kaili city government in Guizhou province says in a statement that the blast occurred at a cafe under a bridge late Saturday. Eleven of those hurt were seriously injured. The official Xinhua News Agency says the explosion was so powerful it shattered the windows of nearby residential buildings.

World

Ivory Coast dispute leaves 2 presidents, chaos

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—The two candidates in Ivory Coast's disputed presidential election took dueling oaths of office Saturday after each claimed victory, as the political crisis spiraled out of control and renewed unrest in this country once split in two by civil war.

Incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo defied calls from the United States, France and the United Nations to concede defeat, wrapping himself in the Ivorian flag as he was sworn in for another term. Hours later, opposition candidate Alassane Ouattara announced that he too had taken his own oath.

Saturday's developments leave Ivory Coast with two men who both claim to be president, furthering inflaming the political chaos in the West African nation whose once-prosperous economy was destroyed by the brief 2002-2003 civil war.

U.S. President Barack Obama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy say Ouattara is the rightful winner and that his victory must be acknowledged. The top U.N. official in Ivory Coast is also standing by results released Thursday by the country's election commission that put Ouattara ahead.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed "deep concern over the continuing



Gbagbo



Ouattara

standoff," his spokesperson said in a statement Saturday.

Prime Minister Guillaume Soro, a former rebel leader who had served in a unity government with Gbagbo since a 2007 peace deal, said Saturday he was backing Ouattara, who is wildly popular in the formerly rebel-held north. Ouattara said his first act as president was to reappoint Soro.

"These last days have been difficult but I can tell you now that Ivory Coast is in good hands," Ouattara said just hours after Gbagbo held his inauguration ceremony at the presidential palace.

At his swearing-in, Gbagbo renewed allegations that his supporters had been intimidated in the north, repeating the rationale used by the country's constitutional council to throw out a half million ballots that were cast in Ouattara strongholds.

"You think that you can cheat, stuff ballot boxes and intimidate voters and that the other side won't see what is going on," Gbagbo said.

Ivory Coast's long-awaited presidential election was meant to restore stability in what was once one of the most affluent countries in Africa. Instead, the election has cast a growing shadow as the country now faces two political rivals who each claim to be leading the country.

Plodding climate talks stepping up to higher level

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—The slow-moving U.N. talks on combating global warming took a step forward Saturday with revised proposals for a \$100 billion-a-year climate aid fund and other issues for debate by the world's environment ministers this week.

Despite that advance, the chairwoman of key closed-door negotiations warned the open conference that obstacles remain to what delegates hope will be a package of decisions next Friday on financial and other side matters under the U.N. climate treaty.

"Progress has been made in some areas," Zimbabwe's

Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe said. But she said the talks were "going backwards" on important issues. "We need to redouble our efforts."

Environment ministers began flying in Saturday for the final days of the annual two-week climate conference, hoping to put new life in the U.N. talks.

Last week, under Mukahanana-Sangarwe's leadership, a working group from among the 193 treaty nations sought to whittle down the contested texts of proposed decisions.

In one sign of the work facing them, only 170 words had been undisputed among the 1,300 on two pages of a key text on the

"shared vision" of what the treaty nations want to accomplish. The disputed language was options proposed by various parties and placed within brackets.

Some parties, for example, want the world to reduce emissions of global warming gases so that temperatures don't rise more than 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) above preindustrial levels, beyond which scientists say serious damage from climate change would set in. Others want to aim even lower, at 1.5 C (2.7 F) above preindustrial levels—a position favored by island states and others most threatened by warming's impacts, such as sea-level rise.

WORLD BRIEFS

Villagers evacuated as Ecuador volcano erupts

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—The Tungurahua volcano in Ecuador is billowing ash into the sky and sending super-hot pyroclastic flows surging down its slopes, causing authorities to evacuate nearby villages. Hugo Yepez, director of Ecuador's Geophysical Institute, says no one has been injured nor any village damaged. He says people within 8 miles of the volcano's center were evacuated Saturday as a precaution. An eruption of ash from Tungurahua last May caused a one-day shutdown of the international airport at Ecuador's largest city, Guayaquil. Thousands of people in near the volcano also were evacuated.

Egypt holds parliament runoffs amid fraud claims

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptians are voting in parliamentary runoff elections a week after President Hosni Mubarak's ruling party scored a sweeping victory in a first round of balloting that the opposition says was tainted with fraud. The country's two main opposition groups—the funda-

mentalist Muslim Brotherhood and the liberal Wafd party—are boycotting Sunday's runoffs to protest the alleged fraud. The Brotherhood controlled a fifth of the outgoing parliament but failed to win a single seat in the first round on Nov. 28. The small Wafd party won two seats last week.

Israel hopes to have wildfire under control Sunday

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli firefighters could bring the deadly wildfire sweeping through precious northern woodlands since last week under control Sunday, a fire service spokesman said. Two teenage brothers were arrested Saturday on suspicion they caused the blaze, which has killed 41 people, through negligence. The minors are to be brought before a court Sunday for an extension of their detention, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said. The fire, the worst in Israel's history, has been tearing through the Carmel forest in Israel's north since Thursday. It has caught the country—which prides itself on its technological prowess, ability to improvise and rescue expertise—woefully unprepared.

Focus

US fights to open school in Taliban area

SENJERAY, Afghanistan (AP)—Over the last six months, U.S. troops have wrested the school away from insurgents. They've hired Afghan contractors to rebuild it, and lost blood defending it.

But the tiny school has yet to open, and nobody's quite sure when it will.

American commanders have called the Pir Mohammed primary school "the premier development project" in Zhari district, a Taliban heartland in Kandahar province at the center of President Barack Obama's 30,000-man surge.

The small brick and stone complex represents much of what American forces are trying to achieve in Afghanistan: winning over a war-weary population, tying a people to their estranged government, bolstering Afghan forces so American troops can go home. But the struggle to open Pir Mohammed three years after the Taliban closed it shows the obstacles U.S. forces face in a complex counterinsurgency fight—one whose success depends not on firepower, but on the support of a terrified people.

Similar battles are taking place across the country. In Marjah, for example, a former Taliban stronghold in neighboring Helmand province, several schools have opened since American-led troops overran the district in February. But many parents are still too afraid of violence and Taliban threats to let their children attend.

In Senjeray, too, "there are teachers ... and we've found them and talked to them," said Capt. Nick Stout, a company commander from the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment. "We say, 'When the school's built, do you want to come teach?' And they say, 'No, no, I don't, not at all.'"

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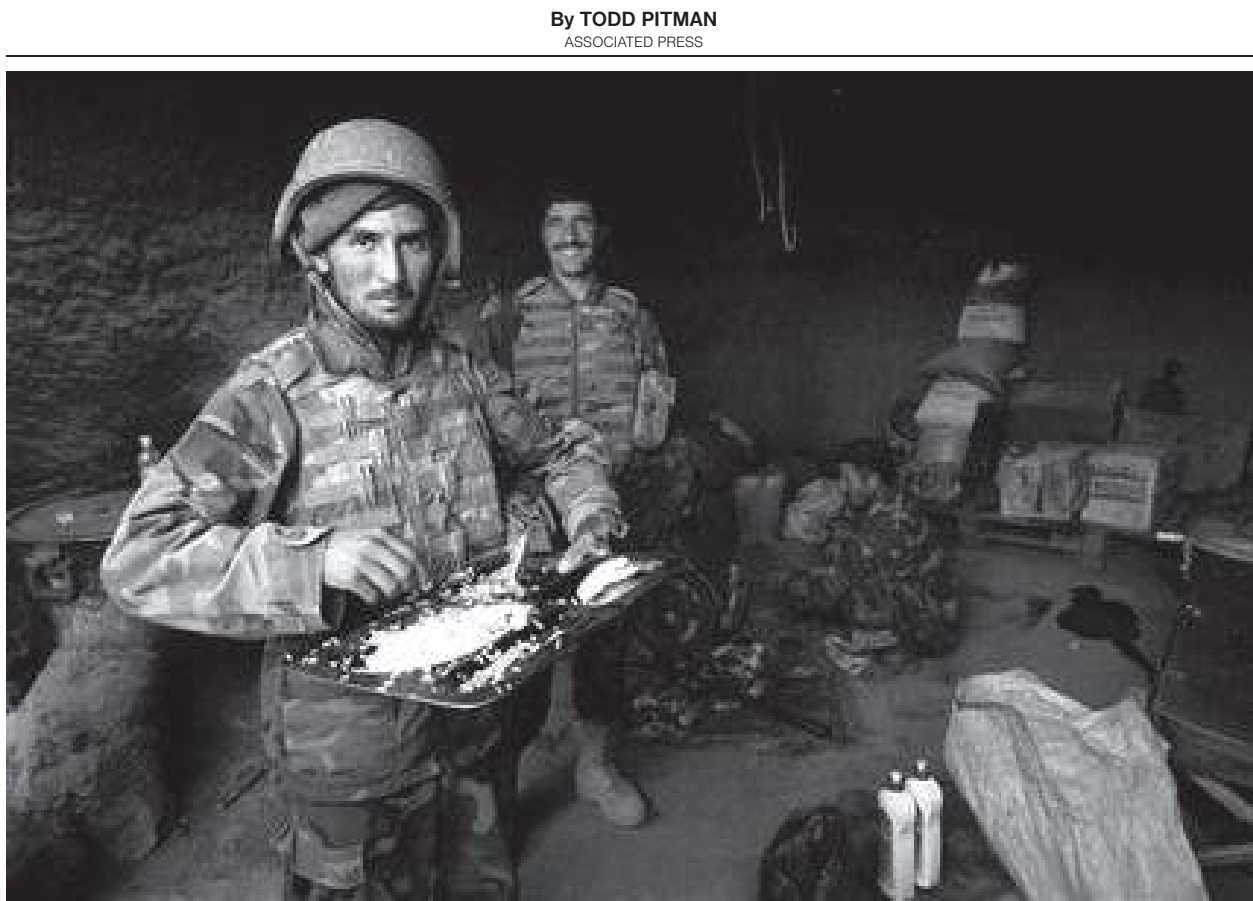
Perched amid majestic mountain crags at the base of a fertile river valley, the village of Senjeray resembles a walled fort, 10,000 people living in a labyrinth of steep, hardened mud walls.

Pir Mohammed sits at the southeastern edge of the village, a pair of modest, single-story buildings that once served hundreds, maybe thousands of children. A small plaque at the entrance engraved with black words on light gray marble indicates U.S. troops refurbished the school "in friendship with the People of Afghanistan" in November 2002—one year after the American invasion.

Canadians finished the school and opened it in 2005. But in 2007, Taliban fighters attacked it, breaking windows and busting doors off hinges. They took away a dozen students, cut the fingers off some and killed the parents of others, said Bismallah Qari, a 30-year-old black-bearded mullah from Senjeray.

The Taliban opposes Western-style education, and apparently saw the school as a symbol of government authority. Qari said the Taliban also believed children would be forced to study Christianity there.

Since then, Senjeray's children have had only one place to go: a handful of Islamic madrassas run by conservative mullahs like Qari that some American commanders say are radicalizing a new generation of Afghan youth, turning them



In this photograph taken Sept. 10, 2010, Afghan soldiers eat a meal at their outpost beside the Pir Mohammed school, in Zhari district, Kandahar province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan.

away from President Hamid Karzai's government and the NATO coalition.

Speaking through an interpreter as American troops searched a recently filled hole in his madrassa they suspected held a weapons cache, Qari said he wanted his kids to attend Pir Mohammed, too, but "we can't do it."

"The Taliban won't allow us to go there," he said. "They'll kill us, they'll kill our children."

■ ■ ■ ■

Pir Mohammed occupies ground highly valued by the insurgency—part of a corridor the Taliban use to traffic arms and guerrillas through villages along the Arghandab River and into Kandahar city.

In April, American troops seized the school in a military operation backed by Afghan troops. They found it in ruins, its rooms reduced to toilets littered with needles, apparently for drug use.

When Stout's unit arrived in May, he deployed two platoons to protect the school round the clock. On their second day, a U.S. soldier was shot in the lung, but survived.

For weeks, firefights erupted almost daily.

U.S. engineers knocked down walls and trees nearby where insurgents hide. Afghan security forces set up checkpoints on surrounding roads. And armored American trucks stood guard to defend the school's crumbling outer walls.

The school itself was turned into a de facto military base: Stout's men stacked sandbags in the windows and installed machine gun nests on the rooftops. They filled rooms with metal boxes of ammunition and anti-tank rockets, and slept on cots inside it.

The American occupation drew the ire of village elders. In mid-July, more than 300 turbaned men from Senjeray urged the provincial governor to pressure the Americans to leave Pir Mo-

ammed. Stout said that in meetings afterward, elders told him the Taliban had pressured them to do so. Nevertheless, they reiterated the plea—and made a crucial promise in return.

"They were saying, 'Look, if you get out of the school, we'll protect the school,'" Stout recalled. "They said, 'We got it. We'll keep attacks from happening. And people will go there.'"

Withdrawing, in fact, was exactly what Stout wanted. It fit with the wider strategy of letting Afghan forces take on security, and freed Stout's troops to secure more ground elsewhere.

So the American platoons pulled out in mid-August, leaving their Afghan counterparts in charge.

■ ■ ■ ■

Instead of the peace the elders promised, attacks actually increased, Stout said. Within days, the school suffered two grenade assaults and a pair of shoulder-fired rocket strikes, one of which killed a seven-year-old boy playing outside.

At meetings that week with mullahs and elders, Stout's team displayed a poster-sized photo of the wounded boy just after the explosion, his face bloodied with shrapnel.

"We said, 'Look, how does this sit in your stomach? Does this bother you?'" Stout recalled. "We told them: 'These people clearly don't care about you, your family, or your livelihood.'"

The elders agreed, and Stout made a proposition: "Come bleed with us and defeat the bigger problem, help drive the insurgents out."

At that, the elders drew back.

Some said they didn't know who had carried out the attack. Others said there were no insurgents in Senjeray. Most said they were mere farmers, and if they cooperated with the Americans, the Taliban would cut their heads off.

Stout rebutted with a grim warning:

"As long as you guys tolerate this, as long as you turn your backs, your children are going to continue to suffer."

The elders nodded. They promised to escort American troops through Senjeray, where attackers hidden on rooftops tossed grenades at U.S. patrols nearly every time they passed by.

But in the weeks that followed, nobody ever turned up.

Qari, the local mullah, said Senjeray's residents were caught in the middle and could not control the insurgency.

"We told the Taliban we don't want your support, and we don't want the support of the U.S. Army," he said. "We told them: 'We can ensure our own security, just leave us alone.'"

■ ■ ■ ■

Part of the difficulty of winning over people in Afghanistan is that NATO-led forces are trying to do it in full body armor.

American troops live in fortified bubbles surrounded by blast walls and dirt-filled barriers. Their window onto the country is often an alien landscape that's hard to see through inches-thick bulletproof glass covered in dust.

On the ground, American strategy often rests on fragile agreements between two groups worlds apart: young muscle-bound troops with crew cuts and tattoos and conservative white-bearded elders in turbans.

There may be no place tougher to win hearts and minds than Zhari. Here is where the Taliban movement was founded 16 years ago. A few miles to the west is Singesar, where Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar once ran an Islamic school.

"Obviously there's a lot of Taliban sympathy out there," Stout said. "These people don't give a damn about us ... and quite frankly, why would they? We're strangers, we've been here for a few months, we walk around the town

with guns, 40 pounds of body armor and (a lot of) grenades."

Afghan troops, too, acknowledge the cold reception in Senjeray, where they are seen as foreigners trying to finish off an old war. Much of the Afghan army's rank and file here is drawn from the north—Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazara—who fought the overwhelmingly Pashtun Taliban in the 1990s.

"The people in this town hate us," said Lt. Said Abdul Ghafar, an ethnic Tajik soldier based at Pir Mohammed. "The Taliban tell them we're not real Muslims, that we're infidels. So the children throw rocks at us and won't even say hello."

Ghafar said 12 of the three dozen Afghan troops at the school were wounded in their first three months there. Eight others never returned from leave.

On Sept. 6, just after midnight, U.S. soldiers inside a truck pulling security at the school spotted someone turning a flashlight on and off in a nearby orchard. The Americans fired a yellow illumination round that fell gently from the sky.

Suddenly, a silhouetted figure stood up and ran, and the gunner on the American truck opened fire. Within seconds, the entire undergrowth lit up with muzzle flashes. Red tracer rounds crisscrossed the sky. Orange rocket trails streaked by.

After about 20 minutes, U.S. mortars ended the battle.

The next day, Stout made a decision.

U.S. forces would occupy the school again. The elders had proven incapable of protecting it and the Afghan troops couldn't do it alone.

That night, two American soldiers at Stout's outpost grabbed drinks from a dining hall.

"I really don't want to go back down to that school," one of them said, shaking his head. "Why do we have to do the ANA's job for them?"—the Afghan National Army.

His colleague, equally frustrated with the struggle to open Pir Mohammed, spat a few words of dark humor back.

"We should just drop a J-DAM on it," he said, referring to a bomb weighing up to 2,000 pounds.

■ ■ ■ ■

Sitting on a step behind his plywood office, Stout dug his combat boots into the dirt and pondered the war. The captain was part of the 2007 surge into Iraq, and said it took 10 months before things turned around there. Senjeray, too, will take time, he said.

Despite months of fighting, the Americans have readied the school to open. They hired Afghan contractors to paint stone walls and install new windows and latrines that together cost around \$70,000. They also spent some \$150,000 on security, building the shell of an adjacent police post.

But building a school like Pir Mohammed "is not just putting in windows and whatnot," Stout said. "Building is people actually buying into it."

American commanders no longer speak of military victory. The goal is to push the Taliban far enough away so teachers and children can attend without fear of firefights or reprisals.

Health & Fitness

Study says even being a bit overweight is risky

By STEPHANIE NANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Lugging around a few extra pounds? One of the largest studies to look at health and weight finds that you don't have to be obese to raise your risk of premature death. Merely being overweight carries some risk, too.

Obesity increases the risk of death from heart disease, stroke and certain cancers. But whether being merely overweight contributes to an early death as well has been uncertain and controversial. Some research has suggested being a little pudgy has little effect or can even be a good thing.

The latest research involving about 1.5 million people concluded that healthy white adults who were overweight were 13 percent more likely to die during the time they were followed in the study than those whose weight is in an ideal range.

"Having a little extra meat on your bones—if that meat happens to be fat—is harmful, not beneficial," said Dr. Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society, senior author of the study.

The study's conclusions, published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, are similar to three other large studies, said the lead author, Amy Berrington of the National Cancer Institute.



cer Institute.

"Now there's really a very large body of evidence which supports the finding that being overweight is associated with a small increased risk of death," Berrington said.

For their government-funded analysis, the researchers pooled 19 long-term studies of mostly white adults. They used each person's body mass index—a measure of height and weight—and checked to see who died during the

follow-up periods, which ranged from five to 28 years.

They focused on people who were healthy at the beginning of the studies, excluding smokers and those with heart disease or cancer because those affect death rates and researchers wanted to see the impact of weight alone.

The lowest death rate for healthy women who had never smoked was in the high end of the ideal body mass index range—between 22.5 and 24.9. Compared with that group, those who were overweight had an increased risk of death of 13 percent. The increased risk ranged from 44 to 88 percent for those who were obese. The morbidly obese were 2 1/2 times more likely to die prematurely. The results for men were similar.

Most of the participants in the studies were white so the research focused on them. Results may be different in other ethnic and racial groups, Berrington said. She said evidence suggests that for the same BMI level, African-Americans might have a lower risk of death and Asians a higher risk.

Two-thirds of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese. Overweight begins at a BMI measurement of 25, obese at 30 and morbidly obese at 40. A 5-foot-6 person is considered overweight at 155 pounds, obese at 186 pounds and

morbidly obese at 248 pounds.

Because of its size and the diversity of studies included, the research "provides strong evidence against the position that it's a good thing for health to be overweight," Thun said.

The notion that a "bit of reserves" would help keep you from getting sick probably stems from the days when food was scarce, he said.

The latest research was launched after a controversial 2005 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that concluded being overweight didn't raise the risk of death; that report included smokers and those with pre-existing illnesses.

University of South Carolina obesity researcher Steven Blair said the results were consistent with other studies and the "massive effort" was commendable. But he said there wasn't enough information available about fitness level or physical activity. A proponent of the "fit and fat" theory, Blair said his research has shown that obese people who are tested and deemed fit did not face increased risks of dying.

"If we want to get to the bottom of the health hazards of overweight and obesity, we have to have better data on physical activity," Blair said. "Until we do that, there's uncertainty of how important BMI is as an important predictor of mortality."

Panel recommends expanding use of stomach bands

By MATTHEW PERRONE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—About 12 million more obese Americans could soon qualify for surgery to implant a small, flexible stomach band designed to help them lose weight by dramatically limiting their food intake. The Food and Drug Administration will make a final decision on the Lap-Band in the coming months.

The device from Allergan Inc. is currently implanted in roughly 100,000 people each year and usually helps patients lose 50 pounds or more. Under federal guidelines, it has been limited to patients who are morbidly obese.

On Friday, a panel of FDA advisers recommended expanding use of the device to include patients who are less obese. The panel voted 8-2 that the benefits of broader approval outweighed the risks.

If approved for wider use, the Lap-Band could be available to patients like Angela Denson, a 37-year-old Indianapolis woman who wants to lose 80 or 85 pounds. She said she has struggled with obesity since she started having children 20 years ago.

"I've tried diet pills. I've tried Weight Watchers ... all different types of diet plans," she said.

Denson is not quite obese enough for the surgery under the current standards, but she still wants to pursue the procedure to ward off future health problems and feel better.

But experts stress that the Lap-Band cannot stop deeply ingrained behavior that drives people to overeat. And the high cost of the procedure will remain

a barrier for many potential patients.

More than a third of all American adults are obese. About 15 million of them meet criteria for gastric banding surgery under existing guidelines, which say a person should have a body mass index of 40 or higher, or a BMI of 35 or higher if the person suffers from a weight-related medical problem such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

If adopted, the proposal would lower the Lap-Band requirement to a BMI of 35 or higher, or as low as 30 with one related health problem.

Doing so would increase the number of eligible patients to 27 million, according to federal health data.

Denson said her insurer denied her doctor's request for a band procedure because her BMI was 39.3, and she had no serious conditions.

Dr. Jack Ditslear said broader approval could help people with lower BMIs avoid dangerous complications down the road.

"We know that being overweight increases the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease," said Ditslear, a surgeon at Clarian Bariatrics in Indianapolis. "Ideally you want to lose the weight before you have the onset of those diseases."

The adjustable band has been available in the U.S. since 2001 but far longer in Europe and Australia, where it is dominant. A ring is placed over the top of the stomach and inflated with saline to tighten it and restrict how much food can enter and pass through the stomach.

The device was developed as an alternative to gastric bypass surgery, a permanent procedure in which food is



In this product photograph provided by Allergan, Inc., the LAP-BAND System is displayed.

rerouted from a pouch in the stomach to the small intestine.

There were about 220,000 gastric surgeries last year, with banding accounting for an estimated 40 percent. Surgeons say the fact that the procedure is reversible and relatively low-risk accounts for its growing popularity.

"As a clinician, it's pretty common for patients to come in because they've heard about banding," said Dr. Eric DeMaria, a surgeon at Durham Regional Hospital. "It's probably the lowest-risk surgical procedure available for morbid obesity."

But there are hurdles to wider use of the procedure, particularly its cost, which can range from \$14,000 to \$20,000. The device itself costs \$3,000.

Susquehanna International analyst Gary Nachman says both insurers and patients are often reluctant to pay.

"It's a very expensive procedure and even if someone has coverage, they may have to pay a copay of a few thousand dollars," Nachman said. "And that's why in a tough economy, we've seen this franchise struggle more than you would normally."

According to Nachman, the pay-

ment issues for Lap-Band will only increase if it is approved for patients with less severe obesity. He projects a modest 8 percent rise in Allergan's business through 2014 to about \$258 million.

Susan Pisano, a spokeswoman for the industry trade group America's Health Insurance Plans, said she believes a majority of insurers now cover bariatric surgeries.

"They may approach this surgery in a cautious way, but I think there is a broad acknowledgment that there is a place for surgery in the treatment of morbidly obese people," she said, noting that some employers who provide group health coverage choose not cover the procedure in their plans.

The FDA's consideration of the Lap-Band comes as rising health care costs threaten to consume nearly a fifth of the U.S. economy. Obesity-related health care spending is estimated at \$147 billion, double the level of a decade ago.

While experts say the Lap-Band can help patients control their weight, it cannot replace healthy lifestyle choices.

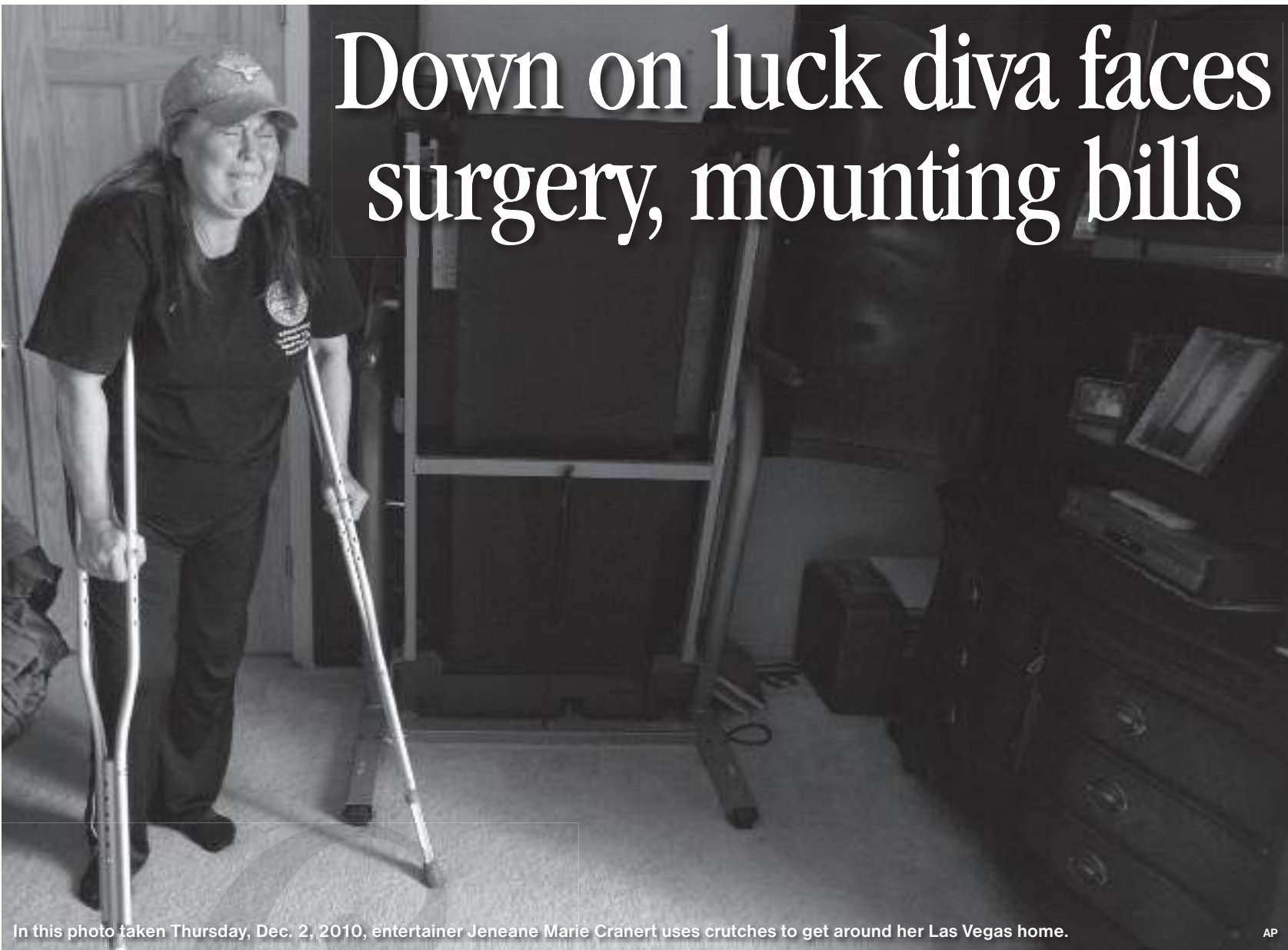
"It is a tool to make the lifestyle easier, but not easy. It doesn't help people exercise more or resolve their behavioral issues," said Madelyn Fernstrom, director of the University of Pittsburgh's weight management center. "It's most important for people to understand what it can and can't do."

To change eating behavior, the drug industry has invested billions of dollars to develop weight-loss medications, most of which have not proven effective.

The FDA has rejected two such medications this year alone because of safety concerns.

Life & Style

Down on luck diva faces surgery, mounting bills



In this photo taken Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, entertainer Jeneane Marie Cranert uses crutches to get around her Las Vegas home.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Jeneane Marie Cranert boasts of touring Europe with the Funk Brothers and Tito Jackson and warming up the stage over the years for such stars as Frank Sinatra, Liberace and Wayne Newton.

It sounds glamorous, only Cranert is telling the story from beneath the covers of her bed, where a bone disease has confined her for weeks because she doesn't have health insurance and can't afford hip replacement surgery.

The 53-year-old singer's face is bloated, her speech punctuated by tearful fits, shrieks and long gasps.

"It hurts," she yells.

The Las Vegas Strip is ripe with entertainers hungry for fame and fortune. They sing, dance, tell jokes and play their instruments. Most gauge their success by the times they share the stage with headliners like Tony Bennett, Charo, Elvis Presley and Dean Martin.

But stage life comes without the promise of steady paychecks and employer-sponsored health insurance.

"Entertainers are second-class citizens until they make it and then they are royalty," said Tony Sacca, who has been singing in Las Vegas for 30 years. "We help each other out."

Sacca heads the Showbiz Society, a charity group that raises money for Las Vegas performers in need. He and more than a dozen other performers will charge \$22 a head at a benefit concert Sunday to raise money to pay for Cranert's medical bills. Jim Marsh, owner of the Skyline casino, said he will match up to \$6,000 of the donations for a bill that could exceed \$100,000. Cranert has applied for Medicare but is not sure she can wait for her paperwork to be processed.

Cranert said she was diagnosed with avascular necrosis in August, three months after returning from Spain with Tito Jackson's tour.

Blood no longer reaches her hip, which could lead to the bone's eventual collapse. A blood clot could reach her

heart, and she could die.

It began as a dull ache and matured into a piercing pain. Now the tiniest hip swivel feels like someone ripping her flesh with a hot poker.

She can't stand up, let alone dance.

"For me to lay here like this," she

said from her bed, her French manicure clutching a blanket around her chin, "it is the most depressing thing I've ever gone through."

The recession has been hard on Las Vegas. Unemployment is at record levels and jobless people don't

Roman Polanski wins best European picture award

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—Roman Polanski's "The Ghost Writer," a story of a journalist hired to write the memoirs of a British prime minister, has won the prize for best film at the European Film Awards.

Polanski, who was awarded the Silver Bear for best director at the Berlin Film Festival, also took five other key prizes at the ceremony held in the Estonian capital, Tallinn, late Saturday.

Nominated in seven categories, the movie won the best director prize, best actor for Ewan McGregor, and best screenwriter went jointly to Robert Harris and Polanski.

"You have awarded a truly European venture. This is too much ... thank you very much," Polanski said in an acceptance speech through a Skype connection from an unknown location. "I wish to thank—before anything—this wonderful crew I had, a truly European crew."

It was not the first time that the Polish-born director has received recognition from the European Film Academy.

The 77-year-old Oscar winning director of movies like "Rosemary's Baby" and "Chinatown" was honored with a lifetime achievement award in 2006 in Warsaw, Poland.

In Tallinn, French composer Alexan-

dre Desplat was awarded for best composer while his compatriot film editor Herve de Luze won the production designer prize for Polanski's movie, which was mainly shot in Germany.

"The Ghost Writer," about the memoirs of a politician, played by Pierce Brosnan, is loosely based on former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Its production was a tangled tale for Polanski.

As he was finishing the movie in September 2009 Polanski was taken into custody at Zurich airport by Swiss police at the request of U.S. authorities to face prosecution in a 1977 child sex case. He had to finish editing the film while in Swiss prison before being released on house arrest.

In July, Polanski was freed after the Swiss government declined to deport him to the United States. But he still faces an Interpol warrant in 188 countries. Most European nations, including Estonia, have an extradition treaty with the United States.

McGregor, who played the ghostwriter, said he had a "fantastic time" while making the film.

"More than any other part I've played I feel like the director Roman Polanski had his hands really on my performance

and is as worthy of this award as I am," McGregor told the audience through a video message from Thailand, where he is currently shooting a film.

Among other prizes at the academy's 23rd annual awards ceremony, Swiss actor Bruno Ganz was honored with a lifetime achievement prize handed out by German director Wim Wenders.

Ganz, 69, with a screen career that spans five decades with memorable performances in Wenders' "Wings of Desire" and "The American Friend," in which he costarred with Dennis Hopper. He is also remembered from his acclaimed performance as Adolf Hitler in the 2004 German drama "Downfall" that portrays the last days of the Third Reich.

French actress Juliette Binoche presented the European achievement in world cinema award to Lebanese composer and musician Gabriel Yared, who has written scores for "The English Patient" and "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

The prizes—the European equivalent of the U.S. Academy Awards—have been presented since 1988 by the European academy to celebrate the continent's film industry as a European counterweight to the Oscars.



Polanski

go to shows often.

As singing gigs dried up, Cranert accepted her first office job ever. She was paid \$9 an hour to help rent out apartments. The part-time job didn't come with health insurance.

Her friends would pull her from bed in the morning, helped her down the stairs of her two-story home and into her car. With each wiggle of her hip, groin or leg, she screamed in pain.

She crawled into bed and stayed there. She has no savings and her 2,251 square-foot home is in foreclosure.

Cranert started singing and dancing when she was 3, pushed to perform by her stage mom in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"I wanted to be Bette Davis," Cranert said.

After high school graduation, she joined a pop band named "Colored Rain" and toured the nation, doing shows in Alaska, California and Texas. During a stop in Las Vegas in 1980, she climbed on stage in front of Don Rickles, who she said liked what he heard.

She performed up and down the Las Vegas Strip. Everyone knew her. She had a three-octave vocal range and a quick wit.

"She's probably one of the best I've ever heard in town," said impersonator Babe Pier. "She can sing like hell, I'll tell you that."

Cranert, who goes by Jeneane Marie on stage, said she opened for Bill Cosby, George Carlin and Rickles.

She also did her own show at casinos along the strip. In videos, she roars out soul music in between poking fun at herself and two-stepping across the stage.

But the money is all gone, she said.

The house, which she bought for \$195,000 in 2002 before her divorce, is now worth \$144,000. She has not made a mortgage payment in about a year.

She already owes a big hospital bill from a pneumonia attack in 2009.

Cranert isn't sure how much she owes, but she knows it could leave her homeless.

"I don't even open them," she said of her medical bills, "because I can't pay them."

Next to her bed is a photograph of her daughter, a 25-year-old unemployed cocktail waitress.

Cranert's parents are dead. She has no one to turn to for a loan. She's gained 60 pounds in six months.

"I just lay here. That's all I do," she said.

If Sunday's benefit doesn't succeed, the performers say they will throw another concert, and another one, until they can afford to buy her a new hip.

"Entertainers, we are independent contractors, and the last thing you have is money to buy health insurance, which is sad," Sacca said.

Cranert acknowledged that she should have been more responsible with the money she earned from her craft.

"If you want to get into showbiz, you better have a business degree, you better save and be smart," she said. "It sounds so exciting. 'Ooooooh, I'm on tour with Tito Jackson.' By the time you come back, you have \$100 to show for it."

Cranert's only collateral is her voice, a big personality and the hope that she will be able to perform again.

"It's who I feel like God made me to be," she said. "It's all right. I'll be on my feet next year, singing my ass off. You'll see."

GLAAD celebrates 25th anniversary

LOS ANGELES (AP)—GLAAD is happy to be turning 25 years old.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation celebrated its anniversary Friday night with a swanky cocktail party at the Harmony Gold Theatre in Los Angeles. Chaz Bono, Jean Smart, Amber Heard and Ed Begley Jr. were among the celebrity attendees who toasted the group, which focuses on how lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folks are presented in the media.

"We've made great progress in these media capitols," said Jarrett Barrios, president of GLAAD. "Beyond Hollywood, beyond New York, between these blue states, right at this nation's red center, we have miles

to go. How far do we still have to go to ensure that an environment of respect exists for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people?"

GLAAD was first formed in 1985 in New York to protest the New York Post's coverage of AIDS. The organization went on to push for several changes throughout the media, such as the inclusion of a same-sex couple on the viewer-voted wedding contest on NBC's "Today" show and modifications to how gays are referred to in The Associated Press Stylebook.

The group now annually holds the GLAAD Media Awards, which actor Steven Weber called the "gayer Oscars," and releases the "Where We Are on TV" report, which

tracks LGBT characters on network shows. This year's report found that there were 23 gay and bisexual characters on scripted network TV out of a total of 600, up 3 percent from last season.

"The steady stream of negative portrayals and censorship of gay and lesbian lives on film and in television has given way to much more realistic and life-affirming depictions, such as this year's 'The Kids Are All Right' and TV's 'Glee,'" said Richard Jennings, a former president of GLAAD who received the first-ever Founders' Award at the event.

Throughout the ceremony, attendees heard from former GLAAD board members, watched video montages of

Mystery surrounds man in publicist killing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He was named a "person of interest" in the killing of a Hollywood publicist, and he shot himself to death as detectives tried to question—but police say it's still not clear if he played any role in the murder.

What is certain about Harold Martin Smith is that he was an armed career criminal possibly looking at another stretch in prison.

Documents obtained Friday by The Associated Press reveal that Smith, who acquaintances say had boasted of killing Ronni Chasen for money, was a convicted, two-strikes felon with a long criminal history.

Smith, 43, had most recently been released from prison in 2007 after a robbery conviction. He was discharged from parole last year and had told neighbors at the seedy Los Angeles apartment building where he lived that he would never return to prison.

Beverly Hills police detectives, armed with a search warrant, approached him Wednesday in the shabby lobby of the Harvey Apartments, told him to take his hands out of his pockets and said they were there to talk about Chasen's killing.

Smith pulled a gun from one of those pockets and shot himself in the head.

Police say it's possible Smith had no connection to the murder.

"At this time, it is unknown if this individual was involved in the Chasen homicide," Lt. Tony Lee said in a statement Friday.

He reiterated that Smith was a "person of interest" rather than a suspect. He said undercover officers were following a tip from the Fox program "America's Most Wanted" when they approached him.

However, as a convicted felon with a gun, Smith likely knew he was in trouble no matter what he told police, criminal experts say.

"Here's Harold talking all



AP

This photo obtained by the Associated Press on Friday Dec. 3, 2010, shows Harold Smith, who killed himself just as police converged on him on Wed., Dec. 1, 2010.

this (expletive). Cops are standing there looking at him, he's thinking, I didn't kill Ronni but I'm standing here with a gun in my pocket," speculated private investigator John Nazarian, a former sheriff's deputy who has investigated homicide cases. "He's going to go back to prison, for life probably. So he just decided to check out."

A third felony conviction could have brought a life sentence for Smith under California's three-strikes law.

Court records show Smith, a transient, was no stranger to Beverly Hills, where Chasen was shot to death on Nov. 20. He was arrested for robberies in that city and neighboring West Hollywood and sentenced to 11 years in prison in 1998.

One of the victims testified in court that he grabbed her in a bear hug and demanded her purse but fled with just her portable music player and headphones when she screamed and struggled.

His criminal record dates back at least 25 years to 1985, when he was convicted of burglary in New York. He moved to California in 1991, was arrested again for burglary and pleaded guilty. Three years later, he was charged in an Oregon robbery but it could not be immediately

determined if he was convicted.

He was charged with marijuana possession and loitering last year in Manhattan Beach, Calif., and pleaded guilty to the latter charge. A warrant for his arrest was issued after he failed to return to court in September to pay his \$160 fine.

Chasen, 64, was shot multiple times as she drove through Beverly Hills in her Mercedes from a party after attending the premiere of the movie "Burlesque." She was promoting the film's soundtrack for an Oscar nomination.

Retired homicide detective Gil Carrillo, who examined a preliminary coroner's report on Chasen obtained by KTTV, said it revealed that whoever shot Chasen was an expert marksman. That led Nazarian to question how someone such as Smith, living on the margins, could have pulled off such a killing.

"Would somebody in a conspiracy to kill somebody actually want Harold on their team?" he asked. "I mean, come on. It doesn't make sense."

As police continued their investigation Friday, a judge approved a petition to appoint special administrators for Chasen's estate, which court records show has an estimated value of \$6.1 million. Attorneys for executors named in Chasen's 1994 will were asking the judge to appoint them as administrators so they can run her business and try to determine whether the publicist had a newer will.

Martha Smilgis, one of the co-executors, said she did not think Chasen was killed because of anything in her will. A friend of Chasen for more than 30 years, Smilgis said the veteran publicist had not expressed any fear or concern in recent conversations.

"Believe me, this woman expected to live on and on," Smilgis said.



AP
In this Nov. 15, 2010 file photo, Chaz Bono poses at the premiere of the film "Burlesque" in Los Angeles.

hallmark moments from the organization's past 25 years—such as when Ellen DeGeneres' character revealed she was a lesbian on her ABC sitcom in 1997—and hissed at mentions of Anita Bryant, Laura Schlessinger, John Mc-

Cain and Mel Gibson.

Jonathan Murray, co-creator of MTV's "The Real World," the long-running reality TV series that regularly includes gay and lesbian cast members, was bestowed with the Pioneer Award, given to a person or

organization who significantly contributes to raising LGBT visibility in the media. Murray admitted the series never received much criticism.

"I think it's because it was real," he said. "How can you argue with something that's real?"

'Ugly Betty' actor charged in mom's sword killing

NEW YORK (AP)—An actor accused of hacking his mother to death with a sword was arraigned Friday from a hospital prison ward on charges of second-degree murder.

Wearing a light green gown, Michael Brea did not speak or enter a plea. He was also charged with criminal possession of a weapon after investigators found him in the bedroom of his apartment with a 3-foot sword. His mother, Yanick, was found on her knees, hacked to death in their blood-spattered bathroom Nov. 23.

The attorney who represented him at arraignment did not return a call seeking comment.

The 31-year-old Brea had small roles in ABC's now-can-

celed show "Ugly Betty" and the movie "Step Up 3D."

Relatives issued a statement after Yanick Brea's death expressing their support for her son, whom they called "a compassionate, gentle, intelligent, spiritual and loving man" in need of help.

"His family and friends know, without question, that Michael was not well in the moments leading to (his mother's) death," the family said.

He was being held without bail and was undergoing a psychiatric evaluation. His next court appearance was set for Dec. 18.

Brea, interviewed in the prison ward by the Daily News of New York, said he had been living

in a private world filled with Masonic symbolism and black magic that led to the attack. The day of the attack, he said, a man approached and tried to put a curse on him, and then strangers began speaking to him about his mother as he rode a subway to the apartment he shared with her.

"I felt like Neo from 'The Matrix.' I began hearing voices and feeling powerful. ... It was a sign," Brea told the newspaper.

In the 1999 movie, Neo—played by Keanu Reeves—is a computer hacker who comes to realize that his life is an elaborate illusion controlled by malevolent machines. He joins an underground resistance in battling to experience unvarnished reality.

'Suge' Knight arrested on outstanding warrant

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was arrested on an outstanding traffic warrant as he left a restaurant near Universal Studios outside Los Angeles.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Shawn Ruda says Knight was released about an hour after

his arrest early Saturday.

Ruda tells the Los Angeles Times that Knight was stopped by deputies, who ran his name through computers and discovered he was wanted on a minor traffic warrant issued recently in Beverly Hills.

Knight was brought to West

Hollywood, where he was cited and released, after agreeing to appear in court within two months.

Ruda says Knight, who has a long arrest record, was not doing anything wrong when he was stopped, and agreed to talk to the deputies.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Katy Perry loves a man in a uniform.

The pop superstar met dozens of service members while working on the special "VH1 Divas Salute the Troops" this weekend near San Diego.

"There was a kid who I met backstage who was rather chaty, but adorable," Perry recalled. "He was really sweet. He was 19. He had such a good heart. He said, 'Yes, ma'am' to me. 'Yes ma'am!' I was like, 'O.K.! Yes, sir!'"

A VH1 publicist estimated an audience of 27,000 attended the nearly three-hour taping of the concert Friday night at the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar. The show, which airs Sunday night, features a bounty of what the network has dubbed "divas"—female or female-lead musical acts, including established stars such as Heart, Paramore and Sugarland, as well as hot newcomers Grace Potter and The Nocturnals, Keri Hilson and Nicki Minaj.

But if one diva emerged supreme, it was Perry, who both opened and closed the show, and performed solo or with others on a half-dozen songs—twice that of anyone else in the lineup.

"I really had to live up to the definition of a 'diva' in all senses of the word," Perry joked. "So, I had to be very difficult today,

'Castle' alert: Beckett, Castle share first kiss

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A stakeout leads to a smooch on ABC's crime drama "Castle," with Rick Castle and Kate Beckett finally sharing their first kiss.

Played by series stars Nathan Fillion and Stana Katic, the pair locked lips in a scene filmed outside a downtown warehouse late Thursday for a January episode.

As "Castle" fans know, the show's weekly whodunits share equal weight with the will-they-or-won't-they romance conundrum for the lead characters.

Castle is a best-selling mystery writer and single dad who is an eager consultant with the New York Police Department. Beckett is the no-nonsense detective ordered to work with him. Their growing sexual tension—and banter—is reminiscent of the 1980s "Moonlighting" mystery series with Sybil Shepherd and Bruce Willis.

Sooner or later, however, TV viewers demand results from such chemistry lessons.

"Castle" executive producer-creator Andrew W. Marlowe said Friday he's aware that many loyalists are rooting for Castle and Beckett to "take their relationship to the next level." The show couldn't hold off forever, Marlowe said.

But ratings can suffer when a lively mating dance turns to humdrum romance, so expect "Castle" to take it slow on the potential road to love.

The Castle-Beckett smooch

Katy Perry supreme as 'Divas' salutes troops



Katy Perry performs onstage at the "Vh1 Divas Salute the Troops" on Friday, Dec. 3, 2010 in San Diego, Calif.

and late," she continued, adding that she was really neither.

Perry went on to reference Beyonce's song "Diva," then proceeded to lose the lyric. "Blaaaah! Obviously I'm not Beyonce," Perry laughed. "She is

the true diva."

Onstage, Perry pulled out the stops—and the costumes—with the opening number featuring Perry, Hilson and Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles in WAC uniforms for a cover of The Andrews Sisters' '40s classic "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

Perry closed the show with her current smash "Firework," which concluded, appropriately, with a fireworks display. For that finale, Perry wore a cherry-red beaded gown with thigh-high slit that looked as if it was borrowed from Jessica Rabbit's closet. "You know me, I love vintage," Perry explained. "I love pinup girls. So, I tried to recreate that. I think any Army guy has a soft spot for a girl that can be painted on their plane."

Perry, 26, and her new husband, actor Russell Brand, will

be spending their first holiday season together as husband and wife. "What do I want for Christmas? Well, I think what is appropriate now is, I hope the troops come home very safely," she replied, then delivered a message to service members.

"Be careful out there during the holidays," Perry told them. "Keep your Skype and your iChat on because I know some of them are away from all their family and wives. I can understand that feeling every once in awhile because I am on the battlefield myself, but I am just singing pop songs," she laughed.

"But, I am away from my hubby every once in awhile, and we use Skype and iChat and that really helps. So I just hope everybody can find a great Christmas and be blessed."

E! reality star's probation revoked after her arrest

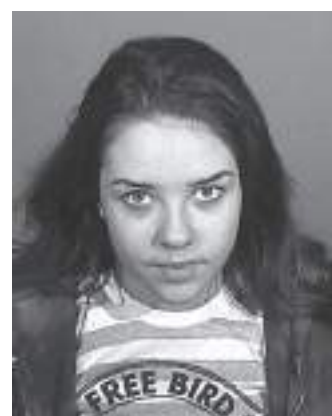
LOS ANGELES (AP)—A reality TV star who pleaded no contest to burglarizing actor Orlando Bloom's home is being held without bail in Los Angeles for allegedly violating probation.

A judge on Friday issued the order for 19-year-old Alexis Neiers after the star of the E! reality series "Pretty Wild" was arrested on suspicion of possessing black tar heroin. The judge scheduled a hearing Thursday.

Neiers pleaded no contest in May to a residential burglary charge stemming from a 2009 theft at Bloom's home. She was sentenced to six months in jail and three years of probation.

Authorities say Neiers was arrested Wednesday during a probation compliance check, and the heroin and a fake driver's license was found in her purse.

Neiers was one of six people



In this police booking photo released Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010, by the Los Angeles County Probation Department showing Alexis Neiers, 19, a reality TV star who was jailed earlier this year for burglarizing Orlando Bloom's house has been arrested again after authorities say they found her in possession of black tar heroin.

arrested in the string of burglaries at celebrities' homes.

Concerned grandma thinks her grandson is too young to hunt

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law is taking his 8-year-old son on a hunting trip. I strongly disapprove, but cannot say anything. I am shocked that my daughter is allowing it.

As a small child, I had a little playmate who blew his fingers off with a hunting gun. I fail to see any reason a child this young needs to learn how to kill animals—and, of course, I am terrified he will get hurt.

My grandson is worried about going, and I am deeply upset. What do you think about a child this age going hunting? He is a sweet, intelligent child, and I am a...

VERY DISTURBED GRANDMA IN FLORIDA



Dear Abby

DEAR DISTURBED GRANDMA: Your son-in-law may hope the hunting trip will be a bonding experience with the boy. However, if the child is worried about going into the woods and killing something, the experience may not bring the desired result. While I am not a fan of killing for sport, if your daughter does not object, there is nothing you or I can do to prevent it. (If they were hunting for food, I might feel differently.)

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I just received a holiday card from some relatives. Included with it was a printed one-page newsletter describing their past year's activities. I have received similar essays from them in previous years.

Why do these writings always inflate the deeds of the writer, almost to the point of laughability? It's as if they're saying, "After dashing back from our private audiences with Queen Elizabeth and the pope, we jetted off to Rio to help our dear friends, the Buffetts, launch their new yacht, which is 6 inches longer than the QEII. And our children are doing well. The oldest is a CEO and the younger was just awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry."

To me, the holidays are a time for reflection and reaching out to those less fortunate. The last thing we need to see is an exaggerated (or fictional) account of an ego-trip from somebody who just doesn't get the meaning of the holidays.

ORDINARY GAL IN ROCHESTER

DEAR ORDINARY GAL: Many individuals—but not all—feel as you do about holiday newsletters. It may help you to remember that they are not being written to you personally. The communication you received is a form of self-promotion. So with that in mind, no law says you have to read them. Because you find them upsetting, toss them as you would any other unwanted piece of advertising.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband has a tendency to "almost" complete things, but seldom actually does. The discards make it as far as the counter above the trash container where they belong. The hose carrier gets put back two feet from where it's supposed to go. He'll leave his jacket on the chair right next to the coat closet. Get the picture?

My husband is a great guy and he does a lot around the house. It's just that these "almosts" are so consistent that I'm curious about whether they're symptomatic of a kind of disorder.

MAINE OBSERVER

DEAR OBSERVER: With the understanding that I am not licensed in any state of the Union to make a definitive diagnosis, it appears that your husband is either easily distracted or a wee bit ... lazy.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



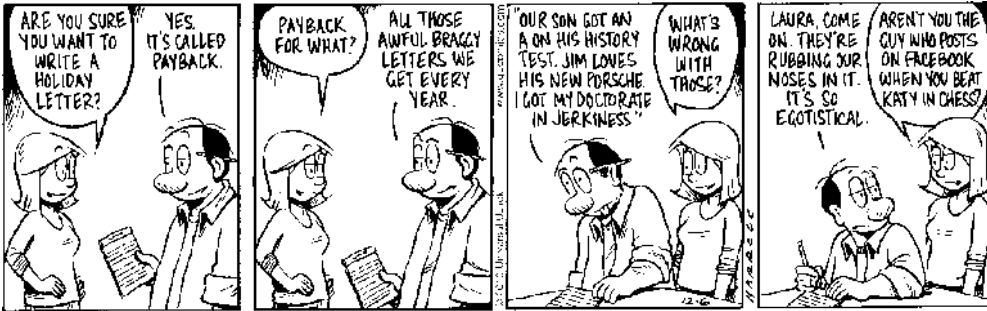
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

12- Down's network

4 Upper limb

7 Relaxation

11 Historic periods

13 Hawaiian neckwear

14 Mid-month date

15 Mischievous Norse god

16 Remiss critter

17 Capricorn

18 Between in verse

20 Oodles

22 Play-ground game

24 Rowling's Harry

28 Hedonistic fellow

32 Entire

33 Weaving device

34 Lummo

36 English river

DOWN

1 Irishman, e.g.

2 Forehead

3 H.H. Munro

4 Pseudo-nym

5 Every last bit

6 Paper quantity

7 9-to-5 shift, e.g.

8 Fuss

9 Red or Black

10 Superlative suffix

12 Andy Rooney's show

19 Bill

21 Heifer's mom

23 Sticky stuff

25 Go sight-seeing

26 Otherwise

27 Clarinet

28 Troop

29 Un-

30 Top-rated

31 Sweet potato

35 "Great!"

38 Kreskin's claim

40 Mai — (cocktail)

42 Draft

45 Sneaker brand

47 Verve

48 Frizzy hairdo

49 Settle to earth

50 Firmament

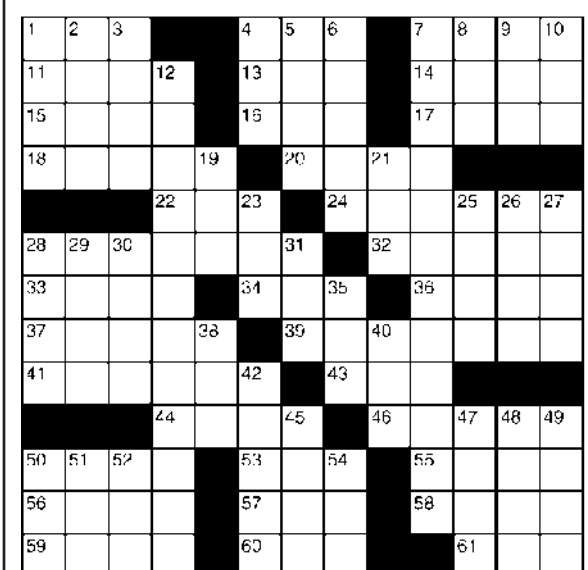
51 — budget

52 Not many

54 Morning moisture

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 12-6



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! \$99 per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lindsay Price, 34; Judd Apatow, 43; Tom Hulse, 57; JoBeth Williams, 62

Happy Birthday: Don't let emotional confusion stand in your way professionally. It's vital that you focus your energy on productivity and financial stabilization. Taking on too much or overdoing it will be your downfall. Once you get the hang of struggling and juggling, you'll make progress. Your numbers are 2, 9, 15, 23, 26, 30, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Fit as much into your day as possible but do so with as little traveling as possible. Delays and detours can be expected. A partnership will experience difficulty. Charm and diplomacy will be required. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your situation in perspective. Understanding what will make others happy will allow you to manipulate matters to work well for everyone involved. Don't be fooled by someone asking for a handout. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Taking a creative approach to professional projects will be necessary. Be aggressive and outspoken and know how much time and money will be needed to get your idea up and running. Summon people with the qualifications to contribute skillfully. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change in your vocation looks promising and you should be doing all you can to set yourself up for a position that interests you. Put a little time aside to relax and enjoy an evening with someone special. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Finish whatever you've been putting off. Challenges should be welcome and will allow you to show your skills and abilities. Don't let a love relationship cause you grief. Charm, diplomacy and refusing to let anyone upset you will maintain a good relationship. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Impulsive action will lead to anger, upset and problems with partners and the people you live with. Be sensitive to what's going on. Make sincere and doable promises and you will bypass complaints. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do what you are asked to do and don't make a fuss about it. Someone will be pushy if you try to get out of a promise you made. A problem at home will surface. You will do much better away from home today. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Tell the people you care about how you feel and what your intentions are. Make sure everyone is on the same page as you. You have to leave the past behind you if you want to advance or work toward a goal. Don't settle for less. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should volunteer your help or give to an organization you believe in. Unexpected changes at home may leave you wondering what to do next. Ride out the storm and wait to see what transpires before making a final decision. Time is on your side. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Finish whatever needs doing so you don't have anything hanging over your head

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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as the year comes to a close. You can negotiate a better deal. Your powerful presentation will pave the way for a better future and greater security. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your innovative ideas will help you to help others but you mustn't make promises you don't intend to keep. You can improve your reputation or hurt it, depending on what you say and do. Build a solid friendship and you'll benefit. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do not let your emotions lead to a parting of the ways because you cannot get along. Look past the initial stage of anything you are trying to do and see the value in doing your best to make things work. Love is in the stars. ★★

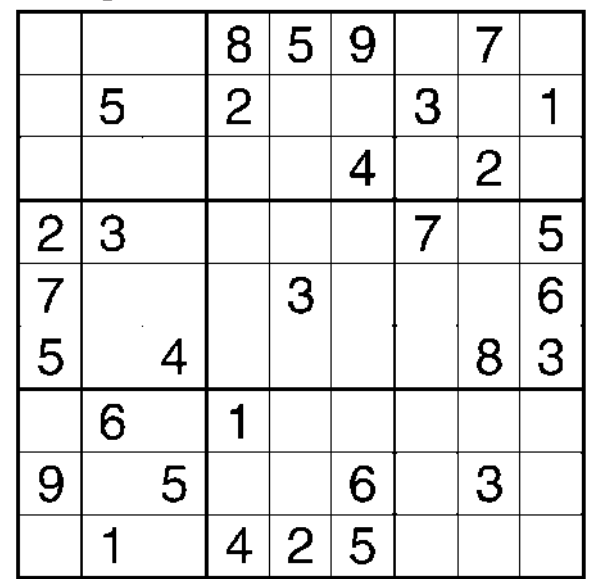
Birthday Baby: You are impulsive, engaging and you love a challenge. You are responsive, passionate and welcome variety and change.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



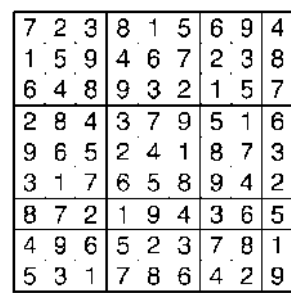
Difficulty Level ★

12/06

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter colors spell the Wonderword.

WASABI

Solution: 7 letters



to 2010 Universal Uclick. www.wonderword.com John J. and Joe J. 12/6
Authentic, Climate, Crop, Cuisine, Delicacy, Flavor, Grain, Ground, Heat, Horseradish, Isothiocyanates, Iwata, Japan, Joyu, Leaves, Jiggle, Load, Love, Mazuma, Mixed, Nagano, Noodles, Orosi, Paste, Poas, Plant, Rare, Rhizome, Rice, Salt, Sashimi, Sausage, Sawa, Snye, Shimizu, Soba, Soya, Soira, Strong, Sushi, Taiwan, Texture, Vapor, Vegetable, Wine
Last Saturday's Answer: Software
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,

ANGELINA A. MANGLONA,
Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 02-0408

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 345 R 404, situated in Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 21, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 84-2049.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 23, 2010, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at the Superior Court, Sinapalo Village, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of November, 2010.

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
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ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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JVA No.: 11-002

Opening Date: Friday 11/26/10
Closing Date: UNTIL FILLED

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DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Executive Director or designee. Position shall be as required by Stipulated Order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. "The TMO shall be primarily responsible for overseeing, all oil spill prevention, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by Stipulated Order. The TMO shall be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding Section 311CWA compliance issues... The TMO will have authority to make decisions for management and operations of the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order."

LOCATION: Administration Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

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POSITIONS: One (1).

CONTRACT: Two-year.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: 1. "Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science or other field related to work in engineering, science or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, and one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations" 2. "Proven management and communication skills" 3. "Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff" 4. "Experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during periods of planning, design, and construction" 5. "Further, the TMO should have experience with one or more of the following: oil storage, use, transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statements of work; oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements." *Applicants with the following credentials shall be preferred: Master's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in civil, mechanical, or chemical engineering; Certification in API tank inspection; Management experience of at least ten (10) years in a multi-service utility, public works or petroleum tank farm operation.*

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Bosh scores 27 points, Heat hold on to beat Hawks

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James' new fan base in Miami had a response.

So did his teammates.

Chris Bosh scored 27 points, Dwyane Wade added 26 and the Miami Heat scored 11 straight points in the final minutes to beat the Atlanta Hawks 89-77 on Saturday night—winning their fourth straight to move a season-high five games over .500.

"It's just a better feel in the locker room, away from the game, but also on the basketball court," Wade said. "We're starting to 'get it' with each other. ... It's making a world of difference."

James was quiet offensively for much of the second half, and it didn't matter. He finished with 22 points, and got serenaded by "Miami loves you!" chants—a nod to the "Akron hates you!" cries James heard when Miami visited Cleveland for the first time since he scorned the Cavaliers and joined the Heat in July.

Wade and Bosh did their part to keep the Hawks at bay, and then the reigning two-time MVP got his first field goal of the second half with 2:52 remaining—a fierce slam, followed by a scream, all giving Miami an 81-72 lead. Mario Chalmers hit an off-balance jumper with 1:38 left, the lead was back to 11, and Miami survived.

"We're figuring it out," James said. "We're figuring out what it takes for us three to be successful, and to have the team win."

Wade and Bosh each had 10 rebounds for the Heat (13-8), whose lead was cut to two at 74-72 with 4:39 remaining. Atlanta then missed its next six shots and Miami ran away.

"They're a tough team," Hawks coach Larry Drew said. "Anytime you have three guys that can potentially be 20-plus every night, you got your hands full."

Only a week ago, the Heat were reeling, calling a 40-minute players-only meeting after a loss in Dallas sent a team with championship aspirations to 9-8.

Four straight wins later, that all seems a distant memory.

"If you don't break from crises, conflict, adversity, those moments make you stronger," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And we didn't cave in."

Al Horford scored 22 points on 10-for-11 shooting and Atlanta, which had its five-game winning streak snapped and lost for just the third time in 10 road games. Jamal Crawford and Josh Powell scored 12 points apiece for the



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots as Atlanta Hawks guard Jamal Crawford (11) defends in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game in Miami, Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010. At left are Atlanta Hawks forward Josh Smith (5) and forward Marvin Williams (24).

Hawks, Josh Smith had 11, and Mike Bibby 10.

James drove the middle of the lane on a fast break with 1:22 left, getting knocked to the court by Horford. He bounced back up, a theme of the night for Miami, which found itself on the ropes after running out to a big first-half lead.

The Heat were just 1-6 against teams that held winning records coming into the day, and that stat looked on the verge of getting worse in the final minute, until Miami went on its game-sealing run. Wade had an off-balance layup to make it 79-72, and the Heat kept going from there.

"There was a look in the guys' eyes, that we needed to be aggressive at both ends of the court," Spoelstra said. "Probably more than anything, we made some real defensive stands."

The Heat led by 17 on two occasions in the first half, the second coming after James' free throws with 3:49 left put Miami up 46-29. There have been times this season where big early leads

just get bigger—and times when they quickly disappear.

This was a disappearing act.

Atlanta trailed by 18 on Friday before beating Philadelphia, and turned what looked like a Miami runaway into anything but with an inspired third quarter. It just wasn't enough.

"It is disappointing but I'm proud of the way the guys hung in there," Horford said. "We were down big in the first half but we kept fighting. We just couldn't pull it off tonight."

Down 50-36 at the half, Atlanta opened the third quarter with an 8-2 run. Horford had six of those points, all coming in a span of just over 2 minutes, and the Hawks kept chipping away from there.

Horford finished 6 for 6 in the quarter, pushing him to 9 of 10 in the game to that point.

Miami built the lead back to 10 on four separate possessions of the third, and Atlanta remained undeterred. The Hawks closed the quarter as they started it—on another 8-2

run—and Crawford hit two jumpers in the final 56.2 seconds of the period to trim Miami's lead to 63-61 entering the fourth.

The Heat shot 6 of 19 in the third, and James missed all three of his from the field during the quarter. But Miami never lost the lead in the fourth, buoyed nicely by the run—and an emotional lift from Bosh, who got a huge roar from the crowd when he looked toward the stands and gave a scream after drawing a foul.

"We got the crowd into it," Bosh said, "and we won the game."

Bucks 96, Magic 85

In Milwaukee, Australian Andrew

Bogut scored a season-high 31 points and had 18 rebounds in his return from a back injury as Milwaukee beat short-handed Orlando.

Brandon Jennings added 27 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Bucks.

Vince Carter scored 20 points and Quentin Richardson added 16 for Orlando, who were down to eight active players because of illness and injury. The Magic had won six straight games before the loss.

76ers 109, Bobcats 91

At Philadelphia, Jodie Meeks scored a career-high 26 points, including 20 in a big first-quarter run, as Philadelphia beat Charlotte.

Meeks matched Allen Iverson's home record for points in a first quarter with 20, scoring all of them during a 26-5 run in a 5:11 span. Meeks made his first six 3-pointers and finished 7 of 10 from behind the arc.

Boris Diaw led the Bobcats with 19 points.

Bulls 119, Rockets 116, OT

In Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 30 points and hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer in regulation to send the game into overtime, and Chicago went on to beat Houston.

Rose added seven rebounds, 11 assists and five steals, and Carlos Boozer had 25 points and nine rebounds. Brad Miller scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to help the Rockets overcome a 14-point deficit.

Timberwolves 128, Cavaliers 95

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 28 points and 19 rebounds as Minnesota beat Cleveland, ending a six-game losing streak.

The Timberwolves hit a franchise-record 18 3-pointers to blow out Cleveland, two days after the Cavaliers were thrashed by LeBron James and the Miami Heat.

Antawn Jamison had 17 points for Cleveland.

4 Magic players sent home with stomach virus

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A stomach virus has forced the Orlando Magic to send home four key players.

The Magic said Jameer Nelson and J.J. Redick took a flight back to Orlando before the team's game Saturday night against Milwaukee because of the illness. Dwight Howard and Mickael Pietrus returned before the Magic played in Detroit on Friday night.

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said he'd never seen so many players from one of his teams ill at the same time.

"Normally, it seems like you'd get one guy, two guys at a time, and maybe over time it runs through the team a little bit," he said. "We were all hit with this from Tuesday night on. It's different. It's not something I've been through before."

Forward Ryan Anderson also is in

a walking boot because of a sprained right foot and will not play, leaving Orlando with only eight players active against the Bucks.

"We've got good players in our locker room," Van Gundy said. "We'll have to play very well and, obviously, the fact that we're down to eight and it's the fourth (game) in five nights is not going to make it easy, but we're certainly capable."

The Magic have won six straight games. They still managed to beat Detroit despite playing short-handed. During a win at Chicago on Wednesday night, Pietrus vomited in the hallway at one point in the first half.

The players sent home were slated to visit team physician Vince Wilson on Saturday night.

"They're still not feeling great," Van Gundy said. "They're all going to the doctor tonight. We can get them some medical attention and hopefully speed up their recovery a little bit. That was the intention."

Van Gundy said no players with the team in Milwaukee were feeling any flulike symptoms.

"Everybody else is feeling OK, other than Ryan," he said. "He's feeling OK but his foot's in a (walking) boot."

There has been no timetable set on Anderson's return, but Van Gundy said he would be "shocked" if he played in the next week.

Instead, he said Anderson probably would be out until the Magic return home from a four-game West Coast road trip later this month.

LeBron says friendship with Cavs' Gibson is fine

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James and Daniel Gibson are still talking.

And James says they're still friends, too.

A day after Gibson was quoted saying things that went on that he "didn't like" during Miami's 118-90 romp in James' homecoming-of-sorts in Cleveland, the NBA's two-time reigning MVP had a private conversation with his former teammate hours before the Heat hosted the Atlanta Hawks on Saturday.

James' assessment?

"We're all good," James said.

James' interactions with the Cavaliers has been a talking point since Thursday, when some of the teammates he left behind when he chose to leave Cleveland for Miami in free agency greeted him with handshakes and hugs, some seemed to greet him half-heartedly at best. James seemed to enjoy the banter, most of which he called good-natured.

As with everything involving James, though, some feathers in Cleveland got ruffled.

When James was scoring 24 points in the third quarter, on his way to a

38-point night, he seemed to look at the Cleveland bench more than once. He spun once and mouthed something toward the Cleveland bench, and he and Gibson—who seemed less than upset about the exchange at the time—jawed back and forth at least once.

"We all know LeBron and we all know that he enjoys being in front of the camera," Gibson said Friday. "To say we were fraternizing and being friendly ... nobody knows what was said and the things that were said probably could not be repeated right now."

Told Saturday that Gibson, the Cavs' guard, said his relationship with his former teammate was damaged, James seemed taken aback.

"Did he say that? Did he ask to be quoted saying, 'Me and LeBron's friendship is ... ' I talked to Daniel today," James said.

For his part, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra couldn't believe the issue has become an issue. Spoelstra said James was serious about winning, which was all he asks.

"I just can't believe it's a story," Spoelstra said.

Woods stays in control at Sherwood



THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Tiger

Woods was in the middle of the fairway, posing over an 8-iron from 170 yards away. Luke Donald was on the top of the hill next to the clubhouse when he turned his head upon hearing another big cheer from the gallery that surrounded the 18th green.

The large video screen in the distance showed the ball next to the hole.

"Looks like he's finding his form," Donald said.

It's looked like that all week.

With three straight birdies early to turn back a brief challenge, a key par save on the back nine and one last birdie on the 18th, Woods had a 4-under 68 in the Chevron World Challenge to maintain his four-shot lead over U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell.

Following the worst year of Woods' career, he is one round away from a familiar finish.

"I'm excited about tomorrow because of the way I'm playing," Woods said.

It was the first time all year that Woods has posted four straight rounds in the 60s, dating to his final-round 65 in the Australian Masters two weeks ago. What mattered was keeping his four-shot margin over McDowell. Woods has never lost a tournament when leading by at least three shots going into the final round.

No one else was within eight shots of the lead.

After eight months of looking like an ordinary player, Woods is starting to resemble the guy with 82 wins and 14 majors. It was his lowest score and largest lead after three rounds since the BMW Championship last year, which he won by eight.

Woods was careful not to get ahead of himself.

"To be honest with you, I don't look at it that way when I'm out there playing," he said. "I'm just in the moment, trying to put the golf ball on different sides of the fairway, where I need to put it on the green. I just play. You would think that my mind might go there, but it's good discipline. Feels good."

McDowell, trailing by four going into the second round, quickly closed within a shot with a two-putt birdie on the second and daring tee shot to the top-right hole location on the par-3 third.

Woods quickly pulled away. He hit a blast-and-run from a plugged lie in the bunker on the par-5 fifth to 2 feet, rolled in a fast 20-foot birdie on the sixth and then covered the flag on the seventh to about 3 feet.

Just like that, his lead was back to five.

The back nine could have gone either way. Woods was in trouble off the tee at the 11th, put picked it clean off the dirt to about 12 feet for a two-putt birdie to keep his lead at four shots. He looked to expand that lead when McDowell hit out-of-bounds on the par-5 13th, but he somehow managed a par.

On the next hole, McDowell had 6 feet for birdie and Woods was 20 feet away for par. Woods made, McDowell missed.

That's why Woods is taking nothing for granted going into the final round. Sherwood is the kind of course where



Tiger Woods hits from a sand trap on the 16th fairway during the third round of the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif., Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010. AP

low scores are available because of the five par 5s, but it's easy to post a big number if a player gets out of position.

Dustin Johnson found that out the hard way, playing the final four holes

in 7 over for an 80 that left him at the bottom of the pack.

Woods appears to be making big strides toward getting his game back. He still sees it as baby steps.

"Since the PGA, there has been incremental progress, little stepping stones along the way," he said.

McDowell has reason to see it differently. He played with Woods the first

two rounds in the HSBC Champions at Shanghai, when Woods fell out of the hunt quickly with errant shots and suspect putting.

This was a different Woods he saw Saturday under a cloudy sky.

"I thought the 'wide' was still there," McDowell said of Woods' tee shots in Shanghai. "I thought he controlled it very well today. He really only had one bad drive, and he's so impressive around the green. He's the best there ever was around the greens."

Paul Casey got off to a fast start, 5 under through seven holes, until he four-putted the eighth for double bogey. He had to settle for par on the next seven holes and wound up with a 69. He was in third place, eight shots behind.

Asked the last time he felt so good about his game, Woods said, "Probably Monday of the Ryder Cup."

That would be the final day, when he played the final seven holes at 7 under in beating Francesco Molinari. Woods showed more flashes in Australia when he played his last six holes at 6 under.

This has been different. Woods has had a few loose swings, a few bad patches, but only two bogeys for the week. As he has done so often, he has built a lead and stayed in control.

Woods says the difference between this tournament and his last few events has been grasping what Sean Foley is teaching.

"I still view this as incremental. I don't see any leaps and bounds because it's been an understanding of the swing, the technique, and becoming more efficient," he said. "I think that's what you're seeing. I'm just more efficient at it."

Source: Yankees and Jeter agree to \$51M deal



NEW YORK (AP)—Derek Jeter is keeping his pinstripes, just like everyone expected all along.

The iconic shortstop and the New York Yankees reached a preliminary agreement Saturday on a \$51 million, three-year contract with an \$8 million player option for 2014, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke Saturday on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

While negotiations moved slowly, there was little doubt that the Yankees captain would remain in the Bronx. Beloved by fans and respected by his peers, Jeter wants to be a Yankee for his entire career in the mold of Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle.

The guaranteed portion of the contract includes a \$3 million buyout if the option is declined. If it is exercised, Jeter would earn \$56 million over four seasons.

The player option can escalate up to \$17 million. The amount depends on a points system. He earns points based on if he finishes anywhere among top six in AL MVP voting and if he wins World Series MVP, league championship series MVP, Gold Glove or Silver Slugger awards. If he earns the maxi-

mum, he would get \$65 million over the four years.

Jeter has finished in the top six in the MVP voting four times, placing second in 2006. He won the World Series MVP award in 2000 and has five Gold Gloves and four Silver Sluggers.

There is deferred money included, which for the purposes of baseball's collective bargaining agreement and the luxury tax brings its average annual value to about \$16 million annually, just above the \$15,775,000 average in the 10-year deal agreed to this week by Colorado's Troy Tulowitzki.

Coming off a \$189 million, 10-year contract, Jeter initially had been offered a \$45 million, three-year deal. After a Nov. 8 meeting, talks came to a standstill as the sides expressed frustration with each other. But talks resumed Tuesday with a meeting in Tampa, Fla., and the sides negotiated over the rest of the week until they reached the agreement.

New York has a roster filled with veteran players, many in their 30s with high-paying long-term deals topped by the record \$275 million, 10-year contract running through 2017 for 35-year-old third baseman Alex Rodriguez.

Unlike A-Rod, who admitted using steroids before his time with the Yankees, Jeter has been a model citizen since coming up to the Yankees in

1995 and winning the AL Rookie of the Year award the following season. He helped lead the team to World Series titles in 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2009, setting a standard admired and envied throughout baseball.

Jeter's 2010 season made the contract situation more complicated. Despite winning his second consecutive Gold Glove and becoming the oldest AL shortstop to win the award, he showed less range. And he declined at the plate to a .270 average with 10 homers, down from a .334 average and 18 homers the previous season. While his RBIs increased by one to 67, his on-base percentage fell from .406 to .340 and his slugging average dropped from .465 to .370.

New York also has been working to finalize a \$30 million, two-year agreement with closer Mariano Rivera, which also contains deferred money. The Yankees also are awaiting a decision by left-hander Andy Pettitte, who told the team he was leaning toward retirement.

After settling with Jeter and Rivera, the Yankees will next turn their attention to the pursuit of left-hander Cliff Lee. Negotiations for the 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner, who is wanted back by the Texas Rangers, figure to intensify when the winter meetings start Monday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.



In this Sept. 9, 2009, photo, New York Yankees' Derek Jeter stands at first after hitting a single during a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium in New York. AP

Taga Security, AON-Blood pound foes

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Taga Security crushed Brotherhood in the 45A division play, 81-53, while Jhem's Restaurant whipped AON-Blood, 71-53, in the 40A division game, as the regular season of the Master's Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup continued last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Both teams finely executed their game plans to cruise to easy wins. Taga held a manageable lead in the first half and then blew open the game with a big third quarter push. Jhem's jumped out in front right at the tip off and rode the lead all the way to the end.

In the first game, Taga's Rey Culala paced his team with six points in the opening period to help build a 17-11 lead after the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Brotherhood's Lamberto Omampo canned three triples, but Taga's Sonny Ebuena answered with 10

markers to help his team maintain the lead at the break, 37-30. Taga kept the pressure on Brotherhood in the third period and more than doubled the latter's output in that canto, 24-11. Culala and Ebuena delivered six points apiece in the third-quarter breakaway, giving Taga a 20-point advantage entering the final quarter, 61-41.

Behind by 20, Brotherhood gave up in the fourth where it scored only 12 markers.

Ebuena finished with 20 points for Taga, while Omampo turned in 17 in the loss.

In the second game, Jhem's almost tripled AON's output, 26-9, in the first 10 minutes of action to gain control of the match early.

Jhem's Jerry Tolentino led the team with eight markers and received six points apiece from teammates Teddy Bugay, Toto Banatasa, and Romeo Verano.

Although AON found some offense in the next period, Jhem's continued to roll in the

Taga Security's Sonny Ebuena pulls up for a jumper against Brotherhood defenders during their 45A division game in the Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

WALTER SUTHERLAND



second quarter. Bugay added six more points in the second canto for Jhem's' 47-26 lead.

Jhem's then slowed it down

after the break and only came up with 10 points, allowing AON to slice the lead to 14, 43-57.

Frank Babauta tallied seven

points in the period, as AON tried to mount a comeback. However, AON fell short, as Jhem's did a good job milking the clock in the fourth canto.

First Game

Taga Security 81 – Ebuena 20, Culala 16, Macoto 16, Pacheco 10, Anasan 6, Puno 5, Flores 4, Morales 2, Valdez 2.

Brotherhood 53 – Omampo 17, Miday 11, Conti 8, Cruz 8,

Echavez 6, Pacheco 3.
Scoring by quarters: 17-11, 37-30, 61-41, 81-53.

Second Game

Jhem's 71 – Bugay 20, Banatasa 16, Tolentino 15, Verano 10, Yalung 6, David 4.

AON 53 – Babauta 21, Bucalig 9, Cabrera 6, Sheibe 6, Morales 5, Butalio 4, Valdez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-9, 47-26, 57-43, 71-53.

MIEKO

From Page 28

uphill race, I was too tired at the flat portion of the course and had cramps for the first time," said Carey, who splashed water to her face after completing the race and still had a ready smile for well-wishers at the finish line.

"It was tough uphill [San Vicente to Papago], as the road was narrow and rocky due to the ongoing construction. Then downhill, I was starting to get tired, but Guam rider Ben Ferguson kept up with me and encouraged me to push harder," added Carey, who had a loose bike chain, but managed to fix it quickly.

Carey was the 10th overall finisher in the road bike division, while Korean rider Joon Yong Seo was the first place finisher among the more than 160 bikers who joined last Saturday's race.

The 22-year-old Seo cut the tape at the 3:02:52.41 mark, eclipsing the 2009 winning time (3:03:25.88) Alexander Bagenov of Russia recorded last year.

It was a down-to-the-wire finish in the men's division with Seo winning the event after sprinting to the finish line. Australia's Malcolm Rudolph tallied 3:03:52.91 to settle for second place, while Asian Games veteran Suk Yoon Choi of Korea logged 3:03:54.06 to complete the Top 3.

The Seoul rider Seo said he pulled out of the main pack in the last 500m, but then Rudolph, Choi, and Russia's Konstantin Fast caught up with him entering the finish line loop.

"Good thing I was really good in sprints, so I managed to beat them. This is one of the toughest races I had been to as there were a lot of climbs. The road was slippery so I had to be very careful," said Seo, who pedaled up to San Vicente and Papago standing on his bike as he negotiated the coral road.

Going up to San Vicente and Papago, the Korean pro was in fifth place, trying to catch up with Fast, who admitted he liked climbs, but ran out of gas in the flat portion of the course and fell short of giving Russia another win in the grueling race. Fast dropped to fourth place with a time of 3:03:01.72.

The top placers in the men's and women's divisions each received a perpetual trophy during the awards ceremony at PIC's Charley's Cabaret. The Top 3 finishers also received cash prizes with Guam's Chiyo Lombard having another bridesmaid finish after timing at 3:39:31.41. Lombard was runner-up to Amber Halliday last year. Myo Jin Kim, the 70K Tour de DMZ and the KINTEX 77K champion in Korea, finished only third with a time of 3:50:19.38.

Other winners in last weekend's races will be published in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday issue.

OREGON

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tion prize.

Ranked No. 1 in the AP Top 25, Oregon (12-0) defeated Oregon State 37-20 and No. 2 Auburn (13-0) routed No. 18 South Carolina 56-17 in the SEC title game to secure spots in the BCS title game, Jan. 10 in Glendale, Ariz. No. 3 TCU watched it all from home but got no help and got left out—the way some team does almost every year in a sport that refuses to adopt a playoff.

Oregon opened as a 3-point favorite Saturday night at the Las Vegas Hilton sports book but within 30 minutes, the line

went down to 1 point. The title pairing will become official Sunday night when the BCS awards spots in the Rose, Sugar, Orange and Fiesta Bowls along with the national championship game. Going into Saturday, the top two teams were flipped in the BCS standings, with Auburn at No. 1 and Oregon ranked No. 2.

"It hasn't really set in yet," said Auburn coach Gene Chizik, who has a month-plus to prepare for stopping the nation's top-scoring offense in the title game. "I know that's where we're going."

Oregon, the team with a multitude of uniform combinations that includes four helmets, five jerseys and four different color

of socks, is seeking the first national title in program history. Behind running back LaMichael James, the Ducks average more than 50 points per game.

"The one thing I think, and now I hope, is that we're not known for our uniforms, we're known for the players inside the uniforms and that's what makes this thing special," Ducks coach Chip Kelly said.

Auburn has been on a crazy ride this season, which has brought sometimes daily revelations about a pay-for-play scheme involving quarterback Cam Newton's failed recruitment to Mississippi State. Earlier in the week, Newton was cleared by the NCAA to play in the SEC title game

and, once again, he played undistracted football, leading an SEC team to the BCS championship game for the fifth straight year.

"It was a lot of guys keeping me focused," Newton said. "I just want to thank them. ... There's some resilient guys on this team. I've said that a billion times, but without the guys on this team, I wouldn't have had the success I did."

Newton, who threw for 335 yards and four touchdowns Saturday, and James, who ran for 134 yards and two scores, are among the favorites to win the Heisman trophy when it's awarded next Saturday. One day short of a month later, they go for an even bigger prize.

TSUNAMI

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were the same at one minute and 10 seconds or lower; 55 seconds for 9 to 10 age group; 45 seconds for 11 to 12; and 43 seconds for 13-and-above.

The cut-off time for 50m breaststroke in the U8 was 00:01:15; 00:01:00 in the 9 to 10; 50 seconds in the 11 to 12; and 48 seconds in

the 13-and-above. Qualifying times for the 50m freestyle were 0:01:00 (U8), 45 seconds (9 to 10), 40 seconds in the (11 to 12), and 38 (in the 13-and-above).

For the 200m IM, the cut-off times were 00:4:40 (U8), 00:4:10 9 to 10), 00:03:30 (11 to 12), 00:03:20 (in the 13-and-above).

Swimmers were given points based on how they finished in each event and the participant with the most points was award-

ed the gold medal. A first place finish equals 10 points, eight for second, and six for third. Silver and bronze medals were also given to the second and third finishers, respectively. Official results of the Tsunami Saipan-hosted meet have yet to be released at press time.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan also had side events for beginners, holding 25-meter races in the afternoon session of the meet.

The 25m events lured more than 20 swimmers from the two clubs.

Events lined up in the 25 races were 25m backstroke, 25m breaststroke, and 25m freestyle. Only swimmers in the 6 to 10 age group were allowed to join the 25m races.

There were also races in the 100m butterfly, 100m breaststroke, 100m backstroke, and 100m freestyle events.

MP

From Page 28

trophy this season. MP United posted a 6-2-0 win-draw-loss in the regular season for a first place finish in the four-team field. As per NMIFA rules, the team to finish in the top spot after a three-round robin competition gets the league championship.

Then in the U18 festival, all four teams had to start from scratch to determine the festival champion. Matansa and Independents failed to muster

enough players in last weekend's festival, leaving Paire and MP United to battle for the crown.

MP United and Paire had a draw in the first game, 1-1, with Jeon scoring for the former in the 15th minute. Four minutes later, Paire made it to the scoreboard off Timothy Tawanpi's goal.

In the second and final game, Jin Han Yoon found the back of the net in the 25th minute for MP United's 1-0 lead. However, MP United failed to close out the title match in regulation when Banya Wutichai made the

equalizer in the 48th minute, sending the game in a shootout.

In the shootout, Tawanpi scored first for Paire before Jeon tied the count when he also converted on his kick. Paire and MP United both faltered in the second attempt with Wutichai and Yoon missing for the former and latter, respectively.

Paire then botched another attempt when Yong Park missed, while Hoon gave MP United a 2-1 lead. Joseph Li tied the count anew, 2-2, before Lee put MP United in front, again, 3-2. The extended game finally ended in MP United's favor when

Paire's fifth shooter Tarence Lane missed.

MP United was awarded the league and festival championship trophies after the game, while Jeon was given a plaque for winning the Golden Boot award.

Completing the MP United roster are Caleb Arriola, Joshua Borja, Chris Camacho, Andres Halaby, Yong Jun Jeon, Greg Kim, Kai Kushihata, Bruce Li, Stacy Macaranas, Abel Pellegriano, Yi Shan Wang, Jun Jeon Yong, Taek Han Yoon, Hunter Thorpe, Edward Jin, and Sung Min Ahn.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	15	4	.789	—
New York	11	9	.550	4 1/2
Toronto	8	11	.421	7
New Jersey	6	14	.300	9 1/2
Philadelphia	6	14	.300	9 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	15	5	.750	—
Atlanta	13	8	.619	2 1/2
Miami	13	8	.619	2 1/2
Charlotte	7	13	.350	8
Washington	6	12	.333	8

Central Division

Chicago	10	8	.556	—
Indiana	9	9	.500	1
Cleveland	7	12	.368	3 1/2
Milwaukee	7	12	.368	3 1/2
Detroit	6	14	.300	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	16	3	.842	—
Dallas	16	4	.800	1/2
New Orleans	13	6	.684	3
Memphis	8	12	.400	8 1/2
Houston	7	13	.350	9 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	15	6	.714	—
Denver	12	6	.667	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	13	7	.650	1 1/2
Portland	8	11	.421	6
Minnesota	5	15	.250	9 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	14	6	.700	—
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Phoenix	10	9	.526	3 1/2
Golden State	8	11	.421	5 1/2
Sacramento	4	14	.222	9
L.A. Clippers	4	16	.200	10

Yesterday's Games

Miami 89, Atlanta 77
Philadelphia 109, Charlotte 91
Chicago 119, Houston 116, OT
Minnesota 129, Cleveland 95
Milwaukee 96, Orlando 85
Dallas 105, Sacramento 103

CHEVRON WORLD CHALLENGE SCORES

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP)— Scores Saturday from the Chevron World Challenge at the par-72, 7,052-yard Sherwood Country Club course:

THIRD ROUND

Tiger Woods	65-66-68—199
Graeme McDowell	66-69-68—203
Paul Casey	73-65-69—207
Hunter Mahan	72-67-70—209
Sean O'Hair	72-67-70—209
Luke Donald	70-66-73—209
Rory McIlroy	66-70-73—209
Ian Poulter	72-67-71—210
Nick Watney	72-67-71—210
Zach Johnson	75-67-70—212
Stewart Cink	69-75-68—212
Jim Furyk	72-73-71—216
Steve Stricker	72-76-70—218
Bubba Watson	76-69-74—219
Anthony Kim	79-66-74—219
Matt Kuchar	75-71-74—220
Camilo Villegas	70-75-76—221
Dustin Johnson	69-72-80—221

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

CNMI, Guam netters excel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The biggest sports competition last week was found in the various tennis courts on Saipan, as the CNMI and Guam's junior tennis players traded volleys and serves in Week 1 of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Week 1 of the Tan Holdings Classic had competitions in the boys and girls U10, U12, U15, and U18 and the adults mixed doubles and juniors doubles.

Christian Miller led the winners in the juniors singles, beating Christian Penafiel of Guam in the boys U15 finals. Other singles champions were Michael Ren (boys U10), Derek

Okuhama (U12), and Ji Kent Kwah (U18) and the girls divisions' Tiffany Madlambayan (U10), Carol Lee (U12), Mikayla Lopez (U15), and Thea Minor (U18).

In the adults mixed doubles, topping their respective divisions were Vivian Lee and Peter Loken (open), George Poquiz and Maru Villanueva (3.0), and Boyet and Theecel Minor (4.0).

Juniors doubles winners include Guam's Pedro John and Derek Okuhama (boys U12), Guam's Josh Cepeda and Christian Penafiel (boys U15), Steven Goodwin and Ren (boys U10), Kwah and Rafael Jones (boys U18), Negahr Rastguiy and Melody Johnson (girls U15), Malika Miyawaki and Mimi Sakano (girls U10), and Adele Hudkins and Emily

Jones (girls U12).

Other notable events last week were the playoff round in the NMIFA men's league, the Saipan Bowling Center monthly roll-off, the NMASA meeting, the Rollers Basketball Club's participation in a Guam tournament, and the on-going Masters Memorial Cup.

Inter Godfather's and Korean Football Association on Saipan

punched the first two semis tickets in the 2010 NMIFA Men's Football Fall Cup after downing separate foes.

Inter Godfather's beat Paire Football Club in the first playoff, 6-1, to notch a semis seat, while KFAS also advanced to the semi-finals after a 5-2 triumph over Matansa Football Club.

In the SBA monthly roll-off, Alex Castro, Carol McKenzie,

and M. J. Aldan prevailed in their respective division. Castro took the Budweiser King of the Lanes November title, while McKenzie claimed the Queen of the Lanes tiara. Aldan was named Prince of the Lanes winner.

At the NMASA meeting, Mamiko Oshima Berger and Keum Bae Ji were named November Athletes of the Month after topping the 26th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run.

The Rollers claimed the runner-up trophy in the U12 division of the Co-ed Turkey Dash 2010 Hoop Fest, while team captain Mike Cenir was adjudged MVP in the U12 age group.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Rollers Basketball Club's U12 team finished second in the 2010 Thanksgiving Hoop Fest Tournament held in Guam from Nov. 19 to 28. Mike Cenir, back row first from left, was selected as the most valuable player in the division.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
King of the Lanes Alex Castro, second right, is joined by the runners-up in the Budweiser November roll-offs.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Guam's Derek Okuhama returns to Dylan Ackerman during their U12 game in Week 1 of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mamiko Oshima-Berger, right, seen here with Jeff Race after the grueling race on top of Mt. Tapochao, was named NMASA Athlete of the Month for November.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Luther Lizama gets ready to serve against Alex Park during their U12 division game in the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
M.J. Aldan is flanked by the runners-up in the Budweiser Prince/Princess of the Lanes tournament.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Queen of the Lanes Carol McKenzie, second left, is joined by the runners-up in the Budweiser November roll-offs.



Bosh scores 27 points, Heat hold on to beat Hawks

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Saipan Tribune Sports



CNMI, Guam netters excel

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28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mieko finds heaven in 'Hell'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Heaven came after the "Hell" for Mieko Carey.



Carey topped the women's division of the 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race, reclaiming the title she lost last year.

"It feels like heaven after going through this hell of a race," said Carey, who crossed the finish line of the 100-kilometer race and was greeted by the appreciative crowd waiting for the home bet at the Pacific Islands Club southern parking lot.

The 32-year-old triathlete timed in at three hours, 22 minutes, and 5.34 seconds, eclipsing her 2009 time (3:22:27).

The 2008 Hell champion said she was ecstatic to finish the race without any major problem and managed to hang in there against the big group of pros.

"The pros started the race really fast and I had a hard time keeping up with them. My heart was beating so fast, as I tried to catch up with them. After the

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Mieko Carey raises her arm in triumph after ruling the women's division of the 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race last Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Tsunami pentathlon meet lures over 60 swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



More than 60 swimmers participated in the Tsunami Saipan Pentathlon Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The one-day meet, which drew swimmers from Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and Saipan Swim Club had participants in four age groups competing in five events: 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, and 200m individual medley.

Swimmers must meet the qualifying times to get points in the pentathlon meet. In the U8 50m butterfly and 50m backstroke, the qualifying times

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Ryuto Yanai competes in the 100m butterfly event during a Tsunami Saipan-organized meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United tops U18 festival



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of MP United pose with their championship trophies during the brief award ceremony for the U18 festival of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United concluded the season with another title, beating Paire Football Club in the boys U18 festival of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

MP United ruled the festival

after edging Paire in a shootout, 3-2. Dae Min Jeon, Moon Bin Hong, and Seung Joon Lee scored in the shootout to hand MP United its second championship trophy in the fall season.

An unbeaten record in the three-round robin U18 regular season gave MP United its first championship

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Oregon-Auburn set up duel for national title

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

For Oregon, it's not so much the funky uniforms as the players who wear them. For Auburn, it's not so much about the bumpy road this season as where it will end.



The Ducks and Tigers locked up spots in the national title game Saturday, while the nation's other undefeated team, TCU, closed the day looking at a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Rose Bowl that still feels like a consolation.

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Auburn quarterback Cameron Newton (2) reacts near the end of the Southeastern Conference Championship NCAA college football game against South Carolina at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010.

AP